Planetomachia:

Or

the firſt parte of the generall oppoſition

of the ſeuen Planets: Wherein is Aſtronomi-

cally deſcribed their eſſence, nature,

and influence:

Diuerſly diſcouering in their pleaſaunt and Tragicall hiſtories, the inward affections of the mindes, and painting them out in ſuch perfect Colours, as youth may perceiue what fond fancies their floriſhing yeares doe foſter: and age clerely ſee what doting deſires their withered heares doe affoorde.

Conteyning alſo a briefe Apologie of the ſacred and miſticall Science of *Aſtronomie:* By *Robert Greene*, Maſter of Arts and ſtudent in Phiſicke.

1585.

Imprinted at London for Thomas *Cadman, dwelling at the great North doore* of S. Paules, at the ſigne of the Byble.

Phot. of HEH 131,8

To the right Honorable the Lord Robert Dudley, Earle of Leiceſter, Baron of Denbigh, of the honorable order of the Garter, and S. Michael Knight, Maſter of the Queene: Maieſties Horſes, & one of her Highneſſe moſt honorable priuie Counſell: *Robert Greene* wiſheth increaſe of Honor & vertue.

APelles (right Honorable) *drawing the counterfaite of Honor, pourtrayeth her holding in the one hand a Starre, and in the other a Stone: meaning as I ſuppoſe by this his Embleame, that although noble mindes intituled with dignities ſhould retch as hie as the Skies, yet they might not diſdayne to looke as low as the earth. Iupiter glutted with drinking of Nectar, ſharpned his ſtomacke with chewing of Philemons ſower Grapes. Honor oftimes hath her eye aſſone delighted with the ſight of a crooked ta-*

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ble, as with the view of a curious Picture: and as well could Tmolus laugh at the homely Musicke of Pan, as wonder at the heauenly melodie of Apollo. The minde wearied with weightie affaires, seeketh assone to be recreated with some pithie conceipts, as with any deepe contemplations: & rather with sleight deuises to procure mirth, thē with sollemne shewes to foster melancholie. They which offered gifts vnto Alexander, presented him with some warlike munition. None cōtented Crassus so much as they which brought him straunge Characters. Nigidius being demaunded why he gaue Antonius Pius the bud of an Oliue, reddily aunswered: because he is the flower of clemencie. So (right honorable) it is not possible that your Honour beeing a Mæcenas of learning, should want the trouble of Schollers, neither that being such a worthie fauourer of good letters, euen the meaneſt (amongst whō I rest), should not indeuour their simple skill to shewe how duetifully they are affected to your honors noble and vertuous disposition. Which consideration of this your rare and singular minde, hath forced me my to present the fruits of their labours to your Lordships patronage: so that all they

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which reape profite by others paines, and gaine knowledge by the workes of them which haue waded the depth of Myneruas Laberinth, are bound to praise and extoll your honor: whose courteous fauour towards learning, hath forced them to discouer their skill for your Lordships priuate pleasure, but the Commons publicke commoditie. These premises throughly weighed, although my ignorance might iustly abash me from troubling your honour with such friuolous trash: yet the duetifull and humble affection wherewith I finde my selfe bound to such a worthie patrone of good letters, hath emboldned me to present your Honour with this Pamphlet, being a Planetomachia or generall opposition of the seuen Planets: wherein is Astronomically decyphered their nature & essence, and plainly sheweth (that sith euery man is naturally borne vnder the influence and irradiate constellation of one of these wandring Starres, and that one is alwaies predominant in the configuration of euery natiuitie) what proper qualities each particuler Planet doth appropriate: painting out what affections it desires Iupiter doth allot to them that are Iouialistes: and what qualities Saturne doth

infuse vpon them which are Saturnistes, together with the diseases incident to their cõstitution and complexion. But as Horace alwaies sung his satyres vpon the Lute, and Phidias painted blacke Vulcan sitting in an Iuorie Charriot: as Protagines carued the counterfaite of Iris in a wedge of gold: and Demosthenes sawsed his weightie inuectiues with some pretie & pleasaunt inuentions. So (right Honorable) I haue mixed melancholie with Musicke, and tempered the brawles of the Planets with pleasaunt though tragical histories: which if your Honour shall accept, my trauell shall be so requited, as if I had optained most rich treasures. And thus hoping your Honor will pardon my rashnesse, and thinke of my mind more then of the matter,

I commit your Honour
to the Almightie.

Your Honors in all duetifull seruice to
commaund, Robert Greene.

To the Gentlemen

Readers, health.

I Preſent here (Gentlemen) vnto your woonted courteſies, a ciuill conflict betweene the ſeuen Planets: not diſcouering in this Pamphlet any ſtraunge or myraculous newes of the oppoſition or aſpect of the Starres, but onely ſhewing their nature and eſſence, and what proper qualities their celeſtiall configuration and influence doth infuſe into humaine bodies: ſo that their proper diſpoſitions once knowne, it ſhall bee eaſie by their outward affects to iudge what Planet is chiefly predominant in his naturall conſtitution: But that I might not be to tedious to young mindes, I haue interlaced my Aſtronomicall diſcourſe with pleaſaunt Tragedies, that your profitable Harueſt may be gleaned together with delightfull paines. And thus committing my ſelfe and my labours to your courteſie, I moſt hartely and humbly bid you farewell.

Yours to vſe, Ro-

bert Greene.

οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγοῦνται
δοξαν θεοῦ.

IN EOS QVI VETV-
ſtam Aſtrologiæ ſcientiam
derident.

TElluri cælum ſi ſæcula priſca maritant?
Si ſine vi cæli, ſi ſine ſole nihil?
E cælo vires ſi ſtirpibus atq; metallis?
Cynthia ſi morbos iudicat una tuos?
Si cælo tellus ſubſternitur? infima cælum?
Si mouet: & proprio temperat arbitrio?
Si inferiora vigent radijs, moderata ſupernis
Cur cælum ſordet, ſordida terra placet
Ceſſa ſacrilego cælum inſectarier ore,
Et fratrem Aſtrologum noſcere perge tuum.
Multa tibi Aſtrologi debent Grene atq; reponent.
Crede mihi meritis præmia digna tuis:
Qui te percupidè rogitant (O Grene) Rogari
Si tamen à doctis tu bene ferre potes:
Vt quos in magno numero noctéſque diéſque
Deſcribis libros adere nil dubites
Optati venient, relegentur non ſine laude:
Ac immortali nomine, viue, vale.

P. H. *Armiger.*

In praise of the Author and *his Booke.*

If wise Vlisses with his wit
did purchase lasting fame,
And sackt the wealth of wisedomes stoare
to burnish out his name.
If Virgils Poems wan him praise,
for mixing mirth with skill:
Or Ouids Iestes with sage aduise,
did pollish out his quill.
If Horace writtes, whose sacred doomes
were interlac'd with sport,
Did get him for his pleasaunt vaine,
a name of rare report.
No doubt then iustly Greene may gaine,
more happie fame then those:
Who seekes of deepe Astrologie,
the secrets to disclose.
To shewe what euery Planet yeeldes,
what force he doth infuse
To humaine mindes: what properties
the Iouialistes doe vse.
What sollempe fits the Saturnistes,
what qualities they haue.
How Mars with choller much adust,
doth cause his crue to raue.
Also what diseases incident,
by euery Planet raigne:,
The cause, th'effects, and proper name
of euery greefe and paine.

But this his ſkill with rare delight,
is ſawced in ſuch ſort;
As grauer heads may counſell finde,
and yonger yeares diſport.
Both by his learned cenſure may
moſt pleaſaunt profite gaine:
With friendly ſpeech and praiſes due,
then recompence his paine.

FINIS. Henry Gale, Maſter of Artes.

In Epicureos.

FOnd Epycurus with thy crue,
which ſcornes the courſe of heauenly frame:
Bend downe thine eye and take a viewe,
peruſe this worke, and bluſh for ſhame:
To ſee thy doating doomes refeld,
which taſte of naught but earthly ſlime:
And now by right and force compeld,
to yeeld to trueth in this our time.
Wherein Aſtrologie her famous lore,
doth iuſtly claime her ſacred due.
As Greene hath prou'd she did before:
and now her praiſes doth renue.
With ſuch ſurpaſſing wit and ſkill,
as ſhall diſplay thy brutiſh will.

FINIS. George Meares Gentleman.

In Μυσταγωγὸς.

Ride Epicure deum, gere neſcia pectore ſati,
finge nihil cæli ſignificare faces
Crede mihi, ad nigrum quando raptaberis orcum:
Hic tua quod plectat ſcommata Numen erit.

Sultum pecus eſt, non homo, quicunque Aſtronomiæ ſtudio non tenetur : cuius neminem niſi deum autherem & repertorem faciundum puto.

Plato.

Planetomachia.

Saturne, Iupiter, Mars, *Sol*, Venus, Mercurie, Luna.

Saturne.

I Am sory Venus, that thou art descended from mee beeing a God, or that the destinies (not to bee controlled) haue appointed thee for a Goddesse: but especially that thou art one of the vii. Planets, whose celestiall influences are predominant in terrestiall creatures. I heare the complaints of thē which are skilfull in the calculation of natiuities, exclaiming against thy thrise accursed constellation, for by thee, Venus, the prime of yeeres which ought to bee spent in vertues, is consumed in idle vanities. Youth whiche in the golden age delighted to trie their vertues in hard armours, take their onely content in delicate and effeminate amours: through thee young mindes are blinded with lasciuious loue, and aged yeeres pestered with fresh affections: thou doest inchaunt the heartes of men with vnfitte fancies, and layest beauty as a snare to intrappe vertue. Loue (as they whom hapless experiēce hath taught make report), is the onely plague which infecteth the myndes of mortall men, and what daungerous euentes proceede of this franticke impression, springe, fond Venus, of thy accursed influence: so that if the Gods woulde bee ruled by me, thou shouldest not onely be depriued of thy place among the Planets, but exiled from all dignitie in the heauens and denyed to haue any more power vpon earth.

Venus.

Saturn, if Gods might ware old as they are immortal, I wold thinke age had made thee doate, but I neede not deceyue my selfe, for it is thy accustomed melancholy that driueth thee into these bitter inuectyues. Thou art sorie that I am come of thy lyne, and I therefore discent because the destinies haue appoynted my progenie from such a peeuish Parent, whose celestial (but infortunate) impression ioyned with a perpetuall vnluckly irradiation, breedeth both in mens mindes and bodies such hapelesse passions sawsed with so bitter and wofull euents, as I sorrow to heare their cursing complaintes, and shame to descēd from the race of such a despised Planet: whereas contrary in the course of al configurations, whether I be in some improper and sinister house, or my vertue darkened with some vnlucky aspect either in Coniunction or Opposition, yet the mildnesse of my influence doth alwaies mittigate, though not extinguishe, the cruell disposition of all other infortunate starres. And further syr, to shew that your inuectiue sauoureth more of rancour thē of reason, I say that those natiuities whiche are fauoured wyth my happye aspecte, dispose the minde to a continuall pronenesse and forwardnesse: vnto pitie, friendshippe, amity, and loue. Loue: yea, Loue I say, as neither God nor man iustly can gainsay, which oft times pacifieth displeasures among heauenly powers, and appeaseth debates among earthlye creatures. It is ỳ enemie to dissention, the friend to quiet, yea the preseruer & conseruer of humane actions, so that what is done well, either is loue, or proceedeth from loue. But Saturne, let those two crabbed Philosophers, who hated loue, and fed vpon gall and melācholy, I meane Timon and Aparmantus: come forth, and thou shalt heare them with bitter curses accuse thy Saturnine complexion, to be the spur that prickt them forward to their desperate philosophie,

Mars.

Truth Venus, & therefore Saturne for a while by the consēt of his own son Iupiter, was most iustly exiled, for ỳ through his peeuish frowardnes, neither could the gods agree in heauen, nor

earth

men vpon earth.

Iupiter.

Mars, you mistake the matter: my father Saturne is the most noble of all the planets, for his influence is principally predominant in age, wherein vayn thoughtes and fresh affections are suppressed, and wisedome onely beares swaye, breeding in mens minds a hatefull contempt of vice, and a happie desire of vertue, & therfore the golden age wherin al liued iustly was called *Aetas Saturnea*.

Luna.

Tush Iupiter, blame not Mars, his hande is on his halfepenie, he plaieth like the Lidian stone, which rubbed with the iuice of Mandrake becommeth hot where before it is most colde. Venus is the goddesse of beauty, and will loue: Mars a god, & must loue: let not his broken coyne stand for starling, for he speaketh of affection: all the Gods either do know it or may know it.

Mars.

Luna, your reproch maye bee counted a praise, for there is no hold to be taken at your words, whose verdict is so variable, ye ere Iupiter can turne his backe, you wil chaunge your tale, neuer singing one songue, nor remaining in one mynd, least if your censure should at any time be al one, you might be thought not to be Luna. But it is for you to talke with the goddesses not with the Gods.

Saturne.

Mars, Luna hath reported as much as she can proue, and yet no more then we know, but letting her defend her own quarrel, I say, that respecting your own luckelesse constellation, it were most fit for you to hold with Saturne, for wrath, enuie, warres, choler, bloud, murther, hatred, proceedeth frō your influence.

Mercurie.

Not so Sir, in this I will speake for Mars, hee breedeth in mens mindes valour, prowesse, magnanimity, courage, constancy, resolutions, without feare, & setled determination, without change.

Iupiter.

And you Mercurie, pollicies sleights, faire promises & small

perfoꝛmance, cauſing men by your variable impꝛeſſion to flatter friend oꝛ foe, to ſweare in mouth, and foꝛſweare in hart, to beare two faces vnder a hood, to carry a Lamb in his ſhield, and a Tygre in his boſome: with the one hand to pꝛeſent ſpice, and wyth the other hemblocke.

Sol.

Is it not a ſhame, right mightye Gods, that your grauities ſhuld be ſo blinded with raging choler as to your own diſcredit, to rippe vp thoſe thinges which ought not ſo much as in ſecrete to be thought oꝛ named: ceaſe then from theſe deſpiteful taunts and let vs waſhe downe theſe bitter woꝛdes with a cup of ſweet nectar.

Saturne.

Not ſo Sol, we will haue Venus wanton toyes diſcouered in heauen, that her laſciuious allureměts may be auoided on earth, I will pꝛoue her by inuincible arguments, to be the moſt pernitious of all the Planets, and if ſhe and the reſt of the Gods bee content ſith in oꝛder thou art placed in the midſt of vs all, thou ſhalt be moderatoꝛ in our controuerſies.

Venus.

No doubt saturn, a good motion, foꝛ now thogh I cānot reuenge thy vniuſt iniuries by foꝛce, yet I may plague thee with my tongue, in telling the truth. I am content to accept Sol as an indifferent Iudge, whoſe doome once pꝛonounced, ſhal ſtand without controlment. I will therefoꝛe to confirme my foꝛmer reaſons, firſt, make a perfect deſcription of Saturnes eſſentiall eſtate, then ſhew by a hiſtoꝛie not vnknown to you al, what hapleſſe miſchiefes pꝛoceed from his infectious influence.

Sol.

Sith I am by theſe ſacred Gods appointed Moderatoꝛ in this controuerſie, I oꝛdaine firſt, that Venus ſay her mind both in the deſcription of Saturnes eſſence, and in rehearſing her hiſtoꝛie, vntill the ende whereof without anye quarrellous interruptions I enioyne you al to ſilence.

Planetomachia.

Venus Astronomicall description of Saturne.

RIght mightie Gods, the Chaldeans, Arabians, Grecians and Latinists, most skilfull interpretors of celestiall misteries, doe with Claudius Ptolomeus and Galen call the starre of Saturne intemperate, infortunate, and ill affected, perhaps for the melancholie humor which with a terrest violence doth rage and raigne in humane bodyes, procuring by his Saturnine influence, both cold and drinesse, as Ptolomeus in *Libro primo Apotelesmaton*, doth witnesse in these woordes: ὁ δὲ τοῦ χρόνου ἀστὴρ πλέον ἔχει τὴν ποιότητος ἐν τῷ ψυχεῖν καὶ ξηραίνειν.

The starr of Saturne is especially cooling & somwhat drie: which two improper qualities, although proper to his nature, how they do *ex diametro* repugne those two pretious temperatures of humane life, I meane heate and moysture, there is no man so simple which doeth not perceiue. The nature of this starre therefore is most prone to infect and corrupt: and yet of force I must confesse that this Melancholie humor doth not in all things, and through all things, so equally exercise his force and vigor, nor so totally and determinately make such dismall infusion, but that he hath his particular commodities. For as with confections tempered by Arte, the Phisitions sometims procure good and holesome effectes: So from this starre (although infortunate) ioyned in good and perfect temperature, mixtion, and irradiation, with other starres, do ensue no meane and small commodities, but *hæc alienanon sua sunt*: Whereby we euidently perceiue, that to what Art or Science so euer the Saturnists apply their minds & diligence, in that, for the most part, they do easely excell all others: To auer the which, Plato and Aristotle do agree, writing that they which in al ages haue flourished in witte, Philosophie, Gouernement of common weales, Poetrie, or any other Artes were al of a melancholick constitution: as Socrates, Pericles, Demosthenes, Archimedes, Vlisses, Scipio, Aaiax, Aeneas, Democritus, Galen, Cesar, Virgil, Hercules, and innumerable other of the same sort,

sort: whom for their continuall studies incessant labours, profound inuentions and deepe cogitations, the historiographers haue reported to be such.

Here further is to be noted that Saturne with his Melancholie humor doth not exert in all bodies his influence equallie, but representeth and resembleth the nature of Mine, which for a certaine Idiotropian of bodies and varietie of natures, doeth not affect all with the selfesame manner of drunkennesse, for some it moueth vnto babling, some to striefe, other to vomite, some to sylence, many to sleepe or laughter, and some vnto rage and choller. So Saturne with his Melancholie humor doeth moue some vnto laughter, as Democritus: some vnto teares, as Heraclitus: others to prating, as Therstites: some to Eloquence, as Nestor: to patience and sylence, as Socrates and Vlysses: to feare as Pysander, to myrth as Lucullus, to sadnesse as Crassus, to musing as Archimedes: in fine, it moueth diuers men to diuers affectes, according to the proportion of the quantitie or qualitie predominant: All which affectes are stirred vp by certaine fumes and vapors, proceeding from Saturnine and Melancholie blood, which ascend vnto the Tower of the minde and there trouble the vitall spirites and the braine, which, as Galen saith, is the storehouse of the senses, and vitall actions whereof ensue diuerse doubtes, thoughts, reasons, discourses, opinions, studies, and phantasies, according (as I said before) to the variable nature in quantitie & quality of the said Melãcholy bloode puffing vp such grosse fumes and vapours as it were out of a hot and fierie matter. For we euidently see that more grosse smokes and smelles, doe proceede from burnt Oke, then from Alder, from sea coale then from wood, from Sulphur then from Frankensence because of the diuersities of their substance proper to their particular natures: so this starre procureth diuerse effectes according to his diuers temperature, for sometime it procureth boldnesse, as in Hercules: and being much adust, fearefull crueltie, as in Aiax, continuing long for the abundance of the terrene qualitie therein predominant, but and if it exceede more in coldnesse then either in heate or drinesse, it

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ingendreth feare and slothfulnesse as in Pylander & Therſites. By theſe former reaſons it is euident (yee mightie gods) that the infortunate influence of Saturne with his Melancholie humour conceiued intemperately in a groſſe and thicke matter, tourneth as it were, to infectious poyſon, which in ſome liuing bodies lieth weake, as Sulphure removed from the fire: and in other ſome flameth out as burning brimſtone, which not onely burneth but alſo infecteth all thinges with his troubleſome vapoures and ſmokes. To be ſhort Saturne of himſelfe is wholly intemperate, infortunate and ill affected, and if it happen that hee procureth any good effectes, it commeth by the perfect temperature, mixtion, and irradiation of other fortunate planets. But ſeeing I haue Aſtronomicallie deſcribed the eſſentiall nature of Saturne, I will now lay open the diſpoſitions of his Melancholie Diſciples.

A marueious Anatomie of Saturniſtes.

Theſe Saturniſtes are ſtraunge affected menne laughing once in their life with Craſſus making ſlowe haſt in all thinges: carrying Vinager in their breaſtes: and bying hope with golde: euery where holding the Moolſe by the eares: as full of eyes as Argus: ſmelling at Onyons, yet eating the ſeede: in friendſhippe doubtfull, finally regarding their neighbours profite: reiecting the Dren, yet vſing the Carte: brought vp in Heraclitus houſe, and taught in the Schoole of the Areopagite: determining one thing while they ſitte, and another as they ſtande: hardly with olde Fores caught in the ſnare: preferring hate before loue: and with one breath blowing both hotte and colde: hardly graunting their right hande to any manne: more inexorable than Rhadamentus: more cruell in ſpeech then the Scythians: vncertaine in ſure matters, alwayes knitting their browes and looking downe to the ground: Supping with Hecates, and taking counſaile in the night: gaping for dead carcaſſes, as Vultures:

ſeeing

seeing both before and behinde as Ianus: hauing eyes in their hands: which beleeue nothing but that they see, and as the Lattine prouerbe saith: *Nihil nisi quod Aristophanis & Cleantis lucernam oleat emittentes*: in couetousnesse insatiable: strayning all things through a seue: bearing hope in their face and sorrow in their hearts: knowne more by name then by manners: tything mynt and Anise seede: in delayes surpassing Scipio, and Fabius: changing all into gould as Mydas: so many words, so many senses: as hardly changing their hayre, as the Woofe: skilfull Artificers in resembling, or dissembling: delighting to feede on sowre Grapes: catying breade in the one hand, and a stone in the other: as vnthankfull as Swallowes: in steede of a Fish giuing a Scorpion: haters of companie, doing nothing well but when they die: thinking the sauour of any gaine to be sweete, preferring profite before shame, and requiring tribute of the deade: hauing many eares, and many eyes: bearing a head without a tongue: more dumbe then Fishes: at talke and company, not vttering one worde, and yet *Sardonio risu omnia condientes*: reaping that which other men sow: ignorant in that they cheefely know, answering all things in three words: fearing their owne shadowes, and starting at flies: licking vp salt and feeding vpon gall: giuing haire for wooll, seeking a knotte in a rush: in life resembling cockles: and doing sacrifice without any smoake: and thus much for their disposition. Nowe as concerning the diseases incident to the Saturnine constitution which commonly proceede of too much blacke choller, adust or corruption of bloud, cruditye or rawnes: imbecillitie of heart excesse of cold and drynesse, or aboundance of grosse phlegme: they be these: Quartaines, Falling sicknesse, Leprosies, Morphes: Canckers, Apostumes, Dropsie, Palsies, Hemoraydes, Bluddy flixe, paine of the Guts and Raines, with other more. As concerning other thinges, the Saturnistes haue their pulses slow and small: sweate, sower, and heauie: blacke deiections, terrible dreames, as of death, Carkasses, Sepulchres Darknesse, Torments, Diuels, and blacke thinges: As touching the foure faculties of humaine life, for his secreat mallice

Saturne

Saturne chalengeth none: although there bee some Phisitions and Astrologers that do attribute vnto him the faculaie Retentiue. In these few wordes I haue decyphered Saturnes malignant disposition, and nowe by your patience vseane to confirme my reasons with a pleasant, though Tragical, History.

Venus Tragedie.

There dwelled in the Citie of Ferrare a Duke called Valdracko, fauoured of his Citizens more for feare, as they were subiectes, then for loue, as they were freemen, honoured of straungers, who had cause to trafficque in his territories, otherwise hated of all, whom neither dutie nor profite had intangled: For this Valdracko being striken in age, was of such a melancholicke disposition, as hee ruled more after the crabed frowardnesse of his owne doting will, then dyrecting his course to minister Justice mingled with mercy. Yet in this one thing deseruing great commendation, that hee was neuer founde to be partiall to any: I meane not that he vsed such a due proportion of Justice, but that he loued none but himselfe. Politicke hee was, (taught by the experience of many yeares) hardly admitting any into familiaritie, vnlesse he might sell his courtesie for profite, and they buy his fauour with repentaunce. But in priuate and secreate counsayles hee vsed no friende but himselfe, fearing to finde that in others which he found rooted in his own cankred stomacke: So skilfull to shadow his spightful practises with glosing coulours, as resembling the Pyrit stone hee burned sorest when he was thought mest colde. To trust anie he thought was to despise securitie, and to desire mishappe, and therefore knowne more for his authority, then by his manners. He caried his thoughts sealed vp with silence, pained with that which he most liked: namely, fearefull mistrust. Hee counted great giftes little goodes, caring not if hee might gaine, what meanes hee did vse to gette, counting all thinges honest that were profitable, and thinking Gall mest sweete if it were tempered with Goulde, as the euent of his wretched life did

make manifest. For this Valdracko although despighted by the gods and nature, for plating such odious qualities in such an olde carcasse; yet was hee fauoured by Fortune in possessing large and sumptuous reuenewes, and not onely aduaunced with the title of honour and dignities: but also, wherein hee most ioyed, he had one onely childe called Pasylla a Ladie, so furnished with outward shape of the body, and inward qualities of the minde, so decked with the giftes of Nature, and adorned with sundrie exequisite vertues, as Ferrara did not so much despise hir Father for his vicious disposition, as they did extoll her fame for her vertuous sinceritie. For shee (although to her great griefe) seeing into her Fathers lawlesse actions, howe with pretensed flattery, like to the Hiena, he had snared some to their vtter mishappe, and that vnder colour of law with exacted extortion, he had oppressed the poore, sought not onely as farre as shee durst, to pull her Father from such inordinate gaines, but also secreatly made recompence to such as her father vniustlie had almost brought to ruine. This Pasylla florishing thus in happie and deserued fame, was generally loued of all, but particularly liked of one called Rodento, onely sonne and heyre to an Earle in Ferrara called Il Conte Cœlio, who on a time passing by the Pallace of Valdracko, chaunced to haue a sight of the Lady Pasylla, as she stoode in a window talking with a young Gentlewoman, her Cozen Germaine, called Pandyna: Rodento amazed at the sight of such a heauenly creature, stood a long while astonished at her excellent beautie, insomuch that Pasilla casting her eye aside espyed him, and with that shut the casement, which somewhat daunted the minde of the young Gentleman to be so sodainly depriued of that obiect which so greatly pleased his eyes. But taking this her modest discourtesie in good part, he passed on to the Church: where hauing deuoutly heard deuine seruice he retourned home, feeling in his minde a sparkling heat of affection, which he tooke as a toie of youth, rather to be laught at for the sodaine passion, then to be preuented for any insuing daunger. But after he had taken his repast with the Earle his Father, he withdrewe himselfe into his.

his Chamber thinking to beguile the long sommers day with a fewe sweete slumbers, which fellout otherwise: For being once solitarie he felt his minde perplexed with more vehement and straunge passions: whereas before his affection was scarce warme, now his fancie begamne to flame: the Idea of Pasyllas comely personage presented it selfe so liuely into Rodentos imagination, as he felt himselfe halfe fnared with her singular bewtie: which craftie Cupid noting, hauing his wings plumde with times Fethers, least hee might let slippe occasion, seeing this young nouice at discouert, thought to strike while the yron was hot, and so drew a boult to the head and hitte Rodento at the verie heart, which pearced so deepe as no meanes but death coulde euer after cure his maladie: for then the fame of Pasyllas vertuous life began to allure him, the report which all Ferrara made of her courtesie, was a chain to intangle his freedome: her honour, birth, parentage, and incomparable beautie gaue such fierce assaultes to his perplexed fancie, as no defence of reason was able to withstand these violent impressions. Rodento seeing himself payned with these vnacquainted fits, was driuen into a quandarie, whither he should valiantly resist the inchaunting tunes of Cupids sorcerie, and so stande to the chaunce what so euer the maime were: or else yeelde to the alluring call of beawtie, and so spende his youth in seeking, and sing for doubtfull, though desired fauours. Tossed a while in these contrarie thoughts he began to consider at last, that to fire his fancie vpon Pasylla, was with the young Griphons to pecke against the starres: and with the wolues to barke against the moone, for there had ben such a perennitie betweene the house of the Valdracchie and the Celij, that neither the Duke would condiscende his daughter should match with him: nor yet the Earle his father be content ỳ he should fancy Pasylla. Further hee knew that as the hearbe Spattania no sooner sprouteth aboue grounde but it blowseth, and the Egges of the Lapwing are scarse hatched before the young ones can runne: so women resembling the Apples of the tree Pala, are scarce ripe before they desire to bee pluckte, and their yeares not able

to discerne loue before they be halfe drowned in loue: wherof he might gather that Pasylla being so young, beautifull, and a woman, coulde not liue so long but erre this tyme affection had puld her by the sleue: if then this his coniecture were true, his loue should reape but losse, & his paine be requited with trauel. These considerations began somewhat to represse his doting fancies, but Cupid not willing to take so slender a repulse, sought straight to race out these despayring thoughtes with the comfortable conserues of hope, and to drawe Rodento out of the Labirinth of distrusting feare, with the assured possibilitie of atchiuing his enterprise. He therefore began to incourage his champion with these plausible coniectures: that although there had beene a perpetual dissention betweene their two houses, yet there might grow as great friendship in their heartes, that the enmitie of the parentes coulde not hinder the amitie of the children, that Pasylla was a woman, and therefore to be wonne: if beautiful, with prayses: if coie, with prayers: if proude, with giftes: if couetous, with promises: in fine, that as there is no stone so harde which cannot be cut, no Hawke so ramage which cannot be manned, no Tygre so fierce which cannot be tamed: so there is no woman so infected with the bitter poyson of selfe will, none so spotted with the staine of hellishe crueltie, nor so wedded vnto wilful frowardnesse, but they may be drawne to the lure by some of the forenamed practises. Rodento pricked forward with these pithie perswasions, and yet driuen backe with the feare of some hopelesse denyall, stoode diuerslie perplexed, whether hee shoulde with a momentarie content sue after losse, or with a long disquiet seeke after gaine: remaining a while in these doubtes halfe frantick with such vnaccustomed fittes he fell into these passionate complaintes.

Ah Rhodento, howe art thou diuersly perplexed: driuen either to purchase hapelesse content with fading pleasures, or to gaine a happie disquiet with ensuing profites: if thou choose the first thou arte like to repente at the last, if the other, suer with Hercules after painefull labours to obtaine fame

and

and quiet. The Caſpians fearinge to bee ſtifled with ſweet ſauors, weare in their boſomes buds of Hemlock, the people Pharuſii doubting to ſurfet with drinking the Iuice of lycoriſe, preuent ſuch perils wᵗ chewing Rhebarbe. It is better to be payned with the ſting of a ſnake, and recouer: then bee tickled with the venome of the Tarantula, and ſo die laughing. Harde, yea hard it is Rodento, to ride on Seianus hoyſe for his beauty, and then periſh, or to gaine the gold of Toloſſe with aſſured miſhap. Better it is for a time with ſorow to preuent dangers, then to buy fading pleaſure with repentance. Repentance? Why Rodento what cauſe ſhalt thou haue to repent? Is payn alwayes a companion to pleaſure? is daunger the handmayd to loue? is fancy neuer paynted but treading vpon thornes? Yes no doubt, as Cupid hath arrowes ẏ doe pierce, ſo they make ſweete woundes. Venus I graunt hath a wrinckle in her brow, but ii. dymples in her cheekes: ſhe frownes not vpon them that ſacryfice at Paphos, but paines ſuch as deſpiſe her deitie. Loue Rodento, why doeſt thou loue? yea, alas: and therfore vnhappy becauſe in loue, a paſſion ſo vnfit for thy young yeeres, as if thou yeelde to Cupids allurements, thou ſhalte haue cauſe either to curſe the deſtinies for appointing him a God, or accuſe the gods for creating thee a man. For Loue whatſoeuer ẏ lucke be, is alwaies tempered with loſſe: if thou winne, thy gaines ſhalbe like theirs, who buy hony mixed with gall, the ſweetnes not halfe ſo much pleaſing the taſt, as the bitternes infecteth the ſtomake. Parraſius drawing the counterfait of loue, paineth her, tickling youth on the lefte ſide with a feather, and ſtinging him on the right with a Scorpiõ, meaning that they which are ſotted with the ſorceries of Cupid, reape for one dram of golde, a pounde of droſſe, & for one pynt of pure oyle, a whole tun of infectious poiſon, beeing a fading pleaſure mixed with bitter paſſions, and a myſery tempered with a fewe momentary delightes. It is for youth Rodento, to ſpend their flouriſhing yeeres in vertues not in vanities, to delight in hard armours, not in delicate and effeminate amours, not to dally in the chamber with Paris, but to march in the fielde with Hector, to wiſh they coulde loue Loue,

not to repent they haue loued. Hercules wonne his fame, not with recounting his lawlesse and licentious loues; but by atchieuing straunge and inuincible labours, the one winning him endlesse renowme, the other vntimely death. Seeke then to bridle fancy with reason, and to restrayne dooting affections with due counsaile: quench the flame of appetite with wisedome, and reaching at honor, spurne at beautie: so maiest thou saye, Venus flames are but flashes, and tal Cupid a despised boye, not a redoubted God.

Rodento thinking thus with blaspheming curses to shake off fancies shackles, wēt out of his chāber to spoꝛt himself with his cōpanions, where he palled away ẏ day in playing at chesse, but although hee gaue the checke, he was faine at last to take the mate: foꝛ Venus hearing with what despitefull termes, he abused her dietie, thought, seing he despised loue, to make him yeeld vnto loue, & with panting sighes to craue pardō, where with bitter speeches he had rayled: she therefoꝛe, seeing that he began to make a rampier against fancie, thought to giue a freshe assaulte to his halfe defended foꝛtresse, & to send desire as a Heraulde to make ẏ chalenge, ẏ beuty as a chāpion might perfoꝛm ẏ charge: which done, Rodento willing still to withstand her power, passed three oꝛ foure dayes in perplexed passions, counting loue as a toy, which being taken in a minute, might be left off in a moment: but he fond ẏ as the Abestō stone once kindled, can neuer be quenched, as the Griphon if he once soare into the ayꝛe, wil neuer come downe without his pꝛay: so if Venus giue the assault, it is vnpossible to escape without sacking: if Loue display her flagge, she neuer returns without victoꝛy, which foꝛced Rodēro to pꝛesent them with pꝛayers, whom he had plagued wyth curses, and where he had shed the blood there to offer the sacrifice. Foꝛ the remembꝛance of Pasillas beauty so fiered his affections, ẏ as the flie Pyralis cannot liue out of the flame, noꝛ the bird Trochiles keepe from the infectious Crockedile, so vnles he might inioy ẏ which he feared to possesse, no means but death could cure his maladie. Rodento pyning a long while in these doubtful thoughts, began once again to debate with himself in this

this sort.

O poore & infortunat Rodéro, thou art perplexed thou knowest not how, pestered with vnfit fancies, and pained with fonde affectiõs, wishing to possesse with an vnwilling mind, & in a hot desire troubled with a colde disdaine. Alas thou reachest at that with thy hand, which thy heart would fayne refuse: playing like the bird Ibis in Egypt, which hateth serpentes, yet feedeth on their egges. Thou louest Pasilla, a thing far vnfit for thy degree, thy calling, thy thoughts. Consider, consider Rodento, thou art the sonn of Conte Celio, who had rather see thee take away with vntimely death, then attainted wt such vnhappye loue, the one should breed but his momẽtary sorows, ỳ other his & thy perpetual misery. Yet loue is a vertue; truth, if it bee measured wt dutifull choice, not if it be maimed with wilful chance. Is there none to loue but Pasilla the daughter of Valdracko, betweene whõ & thy father there hath bin such a mortal enmity: wil she cõsẽt to loue, who alredy is sworn to hate? wil Celio agree, or Valdacko cõsider? No, nor if thou be wise, wilt persist in such vnnatural passions: for better were it for thee to die by concealing loue, then liue and enioy such vnfitte loue. The Bul and the Hyena cannot be feddе together in one stall. The Elphant eateth not where the mouse hath crept. The Eagle & the Doue, pearch not on one braunche. These brute beastes moued onelye by sence, thou a manne and not to be perswaded by reason? Cease then Rodento to loue her whom thou ought est to hate, let rigour blast fancies blossoms, and enuies shadowes spot beauties colours with disdayne: play like the tree Cytisus, that suffereth no flie to light vpon his flower, let thy mind bee like Hercules temple whereinto no dogge canne enter, suffer not loue to scale that fort wherein freedome hath taken charge, so shalt thou both escape ensuing daungers, and proue thy self a dutifull childe. Ah Rodento, what doest thou meane to measure the Heauens with a lyne: or to furrow the Seas wyth a plough? Seekest thou to extinguishe Loue by force, or to prouent fancye by counsayle? Doest thou meane too quenche fire with a swoorde, or to stoppe the wynde wyth a feather.

Thou knowest Loue is to bee feared of menne, because honoured of the Gods. Iupiter could not resist fancie, nor Apollo withstand affection: they Gods, and yet in loue, thou a man, and appointed to loue. It is an impression Rodento, not to bee suppressed by wisedome, because not to bee comprehended by reason: without law, and therefore aboue all law: striue not then against the streame, seede not with the Deere against the wind, seek not to appeale Venus with slanders, but with sacrifice. Pasilla is beautiful & vertuous, to be wonne with intreatie, if thou feare not to accept. What though Valdrecko frown, may not she fauour: he stirred by Saturne, and therefore must hate, she stirred by Venus, and therefore will loue. If Pasilla like, passe not if he lowre: yea let both your Parentes millike, so you two rest in contented quiet.

Rodento had no sooner vttered these wordes, but hee felte his mynde halfe eased with flattering hym selfe thus in his follies, so that from doubting if hee mighte loue, hee fell to deuising how to obtayne his loue: hee began to consider that Valdracko was his enemie, and that he might not goe to his house, least he should procure his secret harme, for the flattering of an enemie is like the melodie of the Syrens, who sing not to stirre vp myrth, but to allure vnto mishap. Rodento. I say, doubting that Valdrackos melancholy disposition could carrie in a painted tombe rotten beames, durst not venture too farre for slipping ouer his shoes, thinking also that if the Earle his Father should know by any meanes of his pretence, he would strayght seeke to preuent his purpose. Seeing then that at this breache there was no way to giue the assault, he determined to meet her as she went abroad, and then to reueale vnto her the summe of his sute, this deuise was not so soon inuented, but it was as readily misliked, knowing that she went continually accompanied with such guarde of the Dukes houshold, that he shuld hardly be admitted to her speech, and if he were, yet he should neither haue fit time nor opportunity, to moue so waighty and secret a matter: Wel, Rodento hauing a spurre in his side to pricke hym forwarde in his enterprise, could take no rest till he might finde

some

some meanes how to manifest his affections. At last after sundry fond thoughts, he determined to send her a letter, which hee knew was such a secrete seruaunt as woulde neither blabbe nor bluth, in deliuering his maisters message, but to whō he shoulde commit the charge, he knew not, so that he passed three or foure dates in careful thoughts, till at last he called to remembrance that there dwelled hard by the Dukes house, an old Gentlewoman called Clarista, who made often repaire vnto the Lady Pasilla, she, hee thought, was the fittest person to bring about his purpose, knowing that old women oft times were more greedy of coyne, then charie of conscience, that for lucre they would not sticke to allure young myndes euen vnto vanities, and that not onely she might deliuer the letter secretly, but also temper Pasillas mynd (if she were obstinate) with some forcible perswasions. This politike inuention pleased Rodento so well, that he determined with all speed to put his deuise in practise: he therefore presently went into his study and there framed a letter to this effect.

Rodento Celij to the Ladie Pasilla, health *and happinesse.*

If the Gods (Pasilla) had appointed as well salues to cure the inward passions, as they haue medicines to mittigate the outward maladies, neither should I haue been forced with hope to gape after vncertain blisse, nor with dispaire to feare assured misery. But such dismal decrees are allotted to men by the vniuste destinies, that the griefes of the mind are neither to be salued by cunning, nor appeased by counsel, neither to be redressed by help of phisicke, nor relieued by aduise of friendes. I speake this Pasilla, by proofe, and curse the gods for such hapless experience, because, if I should haue ease of my passion, I should surfeit wyth too much ioy, and if find the disease incurable, die with too great sorrow. It may be Pasilla, thou wilt marueil at this strange malady, that is pestered with such contrary principles: but I haue more cause to moan, that am payned with such crooked passiōs.

Thy beauty, thy beauty Pasilla hath made the wound, and thy sweet consent must appeale my torments: the impression of thy vertues, and thy minde fraught with suche singular qualities, hath so inchanted my affections, and so snared my freedome in the bandes of fancie, that being wholly deuoyde of liberty I remayne thy loyall seruant. Yea suche a breach hath Loue made into the bulwarke of my breast, that the shape of thy exquisite perfection is so shrined in my heart, as no meanes but death can staine it with obliuion. I had thought that as the Eagle cannot be hurt with lightning, nor the oliue with thũder, so a free mind could not haue byn pearced with fancy: but now I try by proof, that as the playnest table is most apt to receiue anye forme, as the clearest glasse is most brittle, the purest chrisolite soonest wrought, & the whitest lawne most subiect to moales: so ỳ mind which rangeth with most security in the large lees of liberty, & abhorreth Cupid as a furie, shal soonest be bound in the painful fetters of affection, and be forced to honor Venus as a goddesse. For Pasilla, after I had (I hope by happy chaunce) takẽ a view of thy outward shape, & thy inward qualities imprinted in my mynd, thy beauty, and vertue, thy personage and parentage: my sences were so soted with the consideration of this excellency, that euer since, I remayne a captiue to loue and loyalty. It may be Pasilla, and I feare it will be, that Rodento shalbe suspected of thee for a flatterer, and no doubt hated of thy father as an enemie, but would to God I might alloone obtaine his fauour, as by time trie mine vntained affection, & then would I hope to enioy that I wish, & eschue that I feare. Alas Pasilla, it is not for Rodẽto to flatter in his loues, least he falter in his life: yet were it to me farre more ease, though lesse credite: but I hope thou wilt not misconstrue of my affection, nor distrust my protestations, but in recompence of my good will, like a litle, though not loue so much, as I would: & in this hope I rest, feeling some comfort in this, that if thy curtesie cure not my maladye, yet thy crueltye by speedy death shall cut off my misery.

Thine though neuer thine,

Rodento Celii.

Rodento

Rodento had no sooner ended his letter, but with all speed hee posted to the house of Clarista, whom he found sitting solytary in her parlor: Clarista seing Rodento, halfe amazed at his vnlooked for arriual, rose vp, and reuerently gaue him a courteous welcom, saying: that there could no man in al Ferrara haue come to her house, whose presence woulde more haue contented her desire, protesting that shee was for sundry causes so bounde vnto the Earle his Father, that she would thinke her selfe happye if her poore seruice in anye wyse mighte make a requitall of his benefites, and some shewe of her good wyll. Rodento glad to heare her duetifull and friendlie protestation, thought that nowe all thynges woulde fall out accordyng to his wishe, and therefore thinking to giue her grasse for haye, soothyng vppe her doating flatteries, with as fayre promyses, takyng her by the hand, first charged her vppon her othe and honestie, that shee shoulde most secretely conceale, whatsoeuer at that present time hee shoulde make manifest. Then with carefull lookes, and farre fetched sighes, hee brake the matter vnto her, promysing that if shee stoode his friend with carefull diligence, secretely to deliuer his message, and with some forcible perswasions to procure Palilla to take pitye of hys passions, hee woulde so largely and bountifullye requite her friendlye trauaile, as shee shoulde haue cause to thinke she dealt for a thankfull person. Rodento hadde not halfe vttered his mynde, ere Clarista with solemne oathes began too protest, that shee thoughte her selfe happye that nowe shee shoulde haue some meanes to shewe howe duetifully she was affected to the house Celij, commending greately the noble mynde of Rodento, that beeyng younge, hee had made so wise and woorthye a choyse: promising not onely secrecie in so waighty a matter, but also to vse al possible perswasions to the stirring vp of suche a luckye bargaine. Rodento driuen into an extasie, for ioye of Claristas forwarde diligence, thinking it beste in extremities to giue a spurre to a trotting horse: greased her in the fiste wyth a fewe angelles, whiche precious oyntement so soupled her olde ioyntes, that it was no neede to bidde the

olde wife trot, for she presently began to trick vp her selfe towardes hir iourney, which Rodento perceyuing, tooke his leaue and departed till the next day, when he promised to returne for an answere of his letter, Clarista bidding him farewell after she had taken counsel of her glasse, to paint out her wrinckled face with a few fresh colours (a disease rooted in women from their swathing cloutes, and not worne out vntill they come in their winding sheet) posted, & in al hast, to the pallace of Valdracko, whither she was curteously intertained by the Lady Pasilla and her Cozen Pandina, whom she found walking in the gallery, for commonly young Gentlewomen are delighted with old wiues doating fables, and directed after their secret counsailes, counting their sayings as Oracles, & thinking that age hath taught them that, whiche as yet their youth cannot conceiue: so that they esteeme it a religion to obserue their fond and superstitious principles: which moued Pasilla greatly to honor & reuerēce Clarista, so that taking her by the hand, & withdrawing themselues aside to a baye windowe, they fell into long and serious talke, but at last Clarista willing, while the fishe was wanton, to caste forth the baytes, presented Pasilla with this letter, desiring her to read it secretly in her chamber, and the next day to deliuer her a friendly and fauourable answere, saying, that partly she knew the contents, which was a suit so fitting for her honor, that if she could condescend to the request, no doubt shee shoulde proue her selfe as wise, as fortunate. Pasilla halfe amased at this vnlooked for message, beganne with the gosling to perceyue what the old goose meant by her wincking, and to feare that the old Pandar suborned by some lewde mate, had attempted to perswade her to some vnlucky match, so that at the first she refused the letter, til at last forced by the earnest intreaty of Clarista to take it, she put it vp in her pocket, promising if it conteyned nothing preiudicial to her honor, she would the next day redeliuer an answere. And with that being both satisfied, they went agayne to Pandina, who all that while was walking alone in the gallerye, passing away the after noone in such endles chat, as women when they meet, can discourse of: till the night drawing on, Clarista

tooke

tooke her leaue and departed, Pandina and Pasylla being presently calde to supper: where hauing taken their repast with the Duke, they withdrew themselues to their lodgings, Pandina into her bedde chamber, and Pasylla into her closet, where she no sooner came but in hast she vnripped the seales and found the contentes so straunge and vnlookt for, that she both mused and marueiled at Rodentos sodaine passion, and Claristas fond perswasion, laughing at her foolish attempt, and at his (as she thought) dissembled affection: thinking that the young Gentleman inflamed with a secreat hate, sought to spoile her honestie vnder the couloured pretence of Amitie, and with the crocodile to weepe Rose water at the first, and to spitte venome at the last: For she knewe that there had beene such mortall hatred betwixt the Counte Cœlio and her Father, that as the flames of Eteocles, and Polynices did part in their funerals, so there coulde neuer growe any perfect affection betweene her & Rhodento. Yet the fame of his exquisite perfection and vertuous qualities, the renowme of his valiant prowesse, and bountifull courtesie, was so blazde abroade throughout all Farrara, that as his frends had cause to commende him for his valor, so his verie foes could not condemne him because of his vertues. Pasylla calling to minde the perfect proportion of his person, was halfe tickled with a consenting affection: so that if her will might haue stand for a lawe, Rodento had not mist of his loue: but as fancie forced her to listen to his sute, so duetie drewe her to denie his request; yet with such modest curtesie as the young Gentleman shoulde haue no great cause to mislike of her answere: being in this good minde, she tooke pen and Inke and writ him a letter to this effect.

Pasylla to Rodento, Cœlia wisheth as she ought.

IT is impossible, Rodento, with musicke to allure Vlysses, because with perill he hardly escapes the Syrens melodie: when the Eagle sluttereth, Doues take not their flight: neither

will the Deare stand at the viewe of a doggc, though he feare not to gaze at the sight of a boult: where hatefull suspition breedeth crueltie, there it is hard with painted shadows to procure amitie. Synons mouth sauored of Hony, when his hart was seasoned with Gall. Calsius had a dimple in his cheeke when he had a daggar in his hande: and they which coulet most bitterly to betray, must first seeke most sweetely to intrappe. I speake this Rodento, because I see thy infectious poison presented in rich plate, thy filthie drosse couered with gold, and thy crooked meaning with a coloured motion. Can the house of the Cœlii fauour Valdracko: or canst thou loue where thy father hath alwayes sought to hate: May shall Pasylla be so madde to thinke thy glozing truth, other then guilefull treacherie, or thy sacred desire to obtain other then a feerce at despight to reuenge: if she should, thou mightest well haue great occasion to laugh, but she farre more cause to repent. It had been good Rodento, to haue haled, but not before a Cripple, and if thou wouldest needs flatter (fancie thou saist) to haue drawne the plot for some other person, for thou mightest think, if I spied no deceipt; I were too fonde, and if I doubted no dillembling, too credulous, sith then thy hooke being bare thou canst catch no fish thou maist sit downe and play with thine Angle. But put case Rodento doth loue, shall therefore Pasylla begin to like, no she hath learned to be blinde at profers, and deafe at promises, to heare little and beleeue lesse: least in harkning to the charmer she hap to be inchanted. It is not for fools to play with swords, nor for maides to dallie with loue, least the one haue cause to crie, and the other to repent. There is nothing sweeter then libertie, nor any thing more sooner lost, which men seeke to obtaine with flattery, and to reward with falshood, yet I will imagine Rodento doth loue, and Pasylla could loue, will Valdracko grant he shoulde enioy his daughter: no, hee had rather preuent her with vntimely death, then pretend such an vnlikely demaunde: he would sooner consent to payn her with some hellish miserie, then place her in such a hapless marriage. But alas what is this to the purpose: Rodento doth loue, and must enioy

his loue, or else poore soule die for loue. Truely either the mans minde is very weake that will pine away with such a passion, or his bodie verie feeble that wil perish for so small a maladie, but sith your stomacke Rodento, is so queasie, I will giue you this comfortable principle, that as it is harde for women not to consume with care, so it is impossible for men to die of a conceit, the ones minds melting like waxe, the others hardned like Adamant. And yet howsoeuer the case stands though I neither can nor may loue thee Rodéto, yet I wil not hate thee but wish that our parents were as assured friends as the children might be perfect louers, and so farewell.

Her owne and not possible
to be yours *Pasylla.*

PAsylla hauing thus finished her letter, feeling her eyes to be halfe closed with drowsie sleepe went to her bedde thinking to beguile the long night with swee slumbers, but it fell out otherwise, for Venus willing to fauour such a forward champion as Rodento, thought to yoke the neck, which as yet neuer yeelded, and to fire that fancie with a lusting desire, which hitherto hadde beene frosen with a chaste disdaine: shee therefore presented vnto Pasylla the beautie and young years of Rodento, the vertuous disposition of his minde, wherein he was simple, and the perfection of his outwarde shape wherein hee was singular: in the one, excelling most: in the other, inferior to none: which duelie considered, drawe her to debate thus doubtfullie with her selfe.

Ah vnhappie Pasylla, whose minde is pained with vnacquainted passions, and whose heade is troubled with vnequall thoughts, shall thy Virgins fate be staied with fonde desires or thy younge yeares darkened with Cupides shadowes? Tis fitte for thee Pasylla to spende thy youth in labours, not in loues: to pace solemnelye after Vesta, not to gadde wantonlye after Venus. Maydes muste haue denyall in their mouth, and disdaine in their hearts, so shall they

safely

safely remaine free, and securely despise fancie, Diana is painted kissing vertue, and spotting beauties face with a Pensel. Virgins must delight in auncient counsailes, not amorous conceits, least in smelling vppon sweete Violets, they stumble on bitter Rue. Truth Pasylla, thou ginest good preceptes, if thou canst follow thine owne principles. Thou art perswaded by Rodento to loue, but take heede of such baleful allurements: arme thy selfe against his charming desire with a chast distrine, so shalt thou be suer that as he which weareth Laurell cannot be hurt with lightning, nor he that carrieth the penne of an Eagle perish with thunder: so shall neither loue nor fancie paine thee with haplesse passions. Thinke this: Rodento is a man and therefore inconstant, and, as he saieth, a louer, and so a flatterer: as fickle as the Violets of Syria, which forget their pray ere they are halfe satiffied: and as dissembling as Iupiter, who feedeth Alcmena for a while with Nectar, and then killeth her with fire. Sith then Pasylla, to loue is to loose, feare not Venus as a Goddesse, but despise her as a wanton: intreat not Cupid with prayers, but with curses tell Fancie thou wilt reiect her as a vassal, not regard her as a vertue. For Rodẽto, raile against him as thy foe, answere him not as a friend, burne his letters to despight him, and in steede of curtesie, present him with Medeas inchaunted casket: who is enemie to thy Father but Conte Coelio? and who can wish thy mishap but his sonne? Doth Rodento loue Pasylla, no, he hateth Pasilla; he faineth loue to procure thy losse, he flattereth to trie thy follie, and if he finde thee to fond he will bring thee a sleepe with melodie, and then strike of thy heade with Mercurie. Ah Pasylla, condemne not Rodento without cause, if thou meanest not to loue him, delight not to lacke him: profer him not Nettles, sith he presents thee with Roses, if he yeeld thee Hony, rub not his hiue with Gall, answere him friendly though thou straine curtesie to flatter: For swette promises please more then sower giftes, and pleasant potions are better taken though infectious, then bitter pilles though most holsome. And know this Pasylla that the flame of the Hill Chymera is to be quenched with hay, not

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with water, the mountaine in Harpasa, to be removed with ones fingar, not with the whole strength; and loue to be driuen out with reason, not to be thrust out with force, least in striuing against Venus she play the woman and seeke to reuenge.

Pasylla had scarce vttered these last woordes, but wearied with doubtfull thoughts and bitter passions, she fell a sleepe, passing away the night with slumbring dreames till the morning that she wooke, and assaulted afresh by Cupid, had faine to her old complaints, had not one of her gentlewomē brought her woord that Clarista had waited there a good space to speake with her. Pasylla smiling at the diligent hast of the old Pandar, commaunded she should be brought in, but shee no sooner was within the dooze, but Pasylla as one in choller starting vp in her bedde, tolde her she was moze soone come then welcome: and that it was farre vnfitting foz her aged yeares to be a messenger in such a foolish matter: how, as she had befoze honozed her foz her graue counsailes tending vnto vertue, so now she would despise and abhozre her as a doting foole, alluring young minds vnto vanitie: that if Valdracko shoulde knowe of her rash attempt, he would not onely forbid her his house, but also punish her as a spectacle that others shoulde beware to sollicite any such fonde and vnlawfull sutes, but sith it was the first offence she was content to pardon the fault, and to put vp the iniurie with sylence: marry if either shee shoulde presently vtter any woordes in her owne defence, oz euer hereafter trouble her with any such trash, she would cause her father with rigoz to reuenge it to the vttermost, and with that shee cast her the letter she had made, charging her to carrie it to Rodento, and to tell him that she so meanely accounted either of his person oz parentage, that after shee had opened his letter and sawe from whom it came, she disdained to reade the contents, so that whatsoeuer his sute were, he might keepe it secreat to himselfe: And with that shee layd downe againe, telling Claryста sith she had heard her mind, shee might depart at her pleasure. Clarista seeing Pasylla in such a fury, durst not stand to defend her fozmer attempt foz feare of further danger, but humbly craued pardon if she had done a-

misse, promising both wͭ al dutiful seruice to make her amends, and also neuer to be a stifler in the like cause, with a submisse reuerence she tooke her leaue and departed. Pasylla seeing how fearefull the old Gentlewoman was, smiled at her selfe that she could so cunningly dissemble, thinking she had done verie well in not disclosing her mind to such a doating foole: For she knew that old womē though by many years they knew how to speak, yet no time nqvage coulde learne them to be secreat, that they weare their hearts in their handes, and carrie their thoughts in their tongues end, that they couet to heare, & feare not to speak, participating their priuate counsailes to euery one that calles them gossyp. This consideration moued Pasylla rather to make a smal scarre by speaking litle, then a deepe wound by blabbing to any: and musing thus in these thoughts, shee fell againe a sleep. But Clarysta trudging home with a flea in her eare, found Rodento at her house, whom after reuerent salutations done, she nipped on the Pate with this heauy newes, telling him that Pasylla was so straunge, as she would not so much as vouchsafe to read the contents of his letter: but after she knew from whēce it came redeliuered it with great choller, charging her in harde & bitter tearmes neuer hereafter to sollicite any such sute, least she made her father priuy to her alluring practises. And therfore shee earnestly intreated him either to cease of from his sute, or else to vse some other messenger, for she neuer durst attēpt hereafter to breake the matter. Rodento hearing this heauy news & seing as he thought his letter returnd without an answere, sat a long while as one in a trance tormented wͭ such pinching assaults of fancy, as Clarysta might easily perceiue how the poore Gentleman was perplexed: at last thinking it best to couer a discontented mind with a contented countenāce, & with the bright colours of myrth to blot out the dark shadowes of sorrow, he began faintly to smile, & looking vpon the letter threw it down on ẏ ground, and treading on it with his foote, told Clarista that he hoped not to set that at his heart which Pasylla set at her heele: but as she requighted his affection wͭ despight so he mēt to rase out fancy with disdaine, & not onely to cease of from such heede-

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lesse sutes, but from such hapless loues, yet promising to remaine her friend for her forward willingnes. He took his leaue of Clarista and went home to his lodging, where he no sooner arryued but looking more narrowly on the letter, perceiued by the folding that either it was not his, or els Pasylla had opened it, and read the contents: wherefore breaking vp the seales, he founde that Pasylla had either pēned down the happy censure of his perpetual felicitie, or elle the dismall doome of his endlesse mishap, wauering thus betweene feare and hope, hee read her answere viewing and reuiewing ouer euery line, waying euery worde, & making a construction of euery syllable, till at last he found bitter gall tempered with hony, and willing coulenes shadowed with wilfull denials, perceiuing that Pasylla could bee content to loue, if her father would condescende to like: that although the first lines were as stiffe as steele, yet the conclusion was as pliable: as ware, that her harde words to Clarista were to shadowe her owne secreats not to reiecte his lawfull sutes. These happy considerations of Pasyllas letter so salued the sorrowfull minde of Rodento, that where before he did sinke in dispayer, now he did swime in blisse, his restlesse disquiet was turned to contented peace, hoping that in time Pasylla would be trayned to fancie, and so repay him with mutuall affection, intending that this faint repulse should not driue him from assaulting the fort, least in fearing at the first shotte, he might be thought not worthy to vanquish: marry he meant not to deale any more with Clarista because he perceiued Pasylla doubted of hir secrecy, but to seeke some other meanes to obtaine his purpose, and in this contented hope, hee rested till time and opportunitie might further his pretence. But Fortune who knoweth no meane seeing Rodento begin to clime vnto happines, thought to lift him vp to ỳ skies, ỳ she might wᵗ more violence pash him down lower then hel, & to bring this to passe she thus laid her platforme. It fortuned that within few days Pasylla and her Cousin Pandina being walking together in the Garde, Valdracko thinking his daughter had bin in her closet, went vp to speake wᵗ her, but finding ỳ doore vnshut, which Pandina by forgetfulnes had left opē & none within, stepped into the closet, and began to rifle among

the loose papers which were lying on the boorde, and at last by vnhappy lucke light on the letter which Rodento sent to Fancina, which after hee had throughly perused, and perceiued by the contents the summe of his suite, he searched further, and founde the coppy of his daughters answere, containing so milde a repulse, and so friendly denials that he was pained with strange and vncertaine thoughts, thinking if he should with rigor reproue his daughters folly, it were but to make her ouer feruent in affection, knowing that women flie frowardly from those things whereunto they are perswaded, and wilfully attempt those actions, from which with sensible reasons they are forewarned. To forbid Rodento to prosecute his sute, was to stoppe swift streames with a sworde, and to stay the blastes of the winds with a vale of silke, so that he was doubtfull what to do: yet in this resolute: rather then his enimy shoulde triumph in obtaining his purpose, to preuent his pretence with the vntimely death of his owne daughter. Being in this quandarie he laide downe the letters and went to his bedchamber, where being sollitarie, surcharged with melancholie dumps, he fell to sundry strange deuises, at last after he had leand a while on his elbowe, hee determined to colour his secreat griefe with the balefull shadow of despight, and now to repay his old hate with a speedie and bloudie reuenge, hoping vnder the pretensed colour of friendship not only to procure his owne gaine & good fortune, but also vtterly to subuert & extinguish the hole house and family of ỹ Conte Cœlio which wretched pretence he wrought in this wise. The citizens of Ferrara, I meane both the nobility & communaltie were appointed to meete & assemble in the guild hall, there to debate of some waighty matters pertaining to the profite of the weale publike, whether at ỹ day appointed amõgst the rest repaired the Earle as one in greatest authority next the Duke in all Ferrara, who after the citizens had agreed vppon such matters as were in question, redie to depart, was stayed by Valdracko, who after some vnaccustomed curtesie requested ỹ Conte, that if his leisure could permit, he would stay a while, that they two might haue some priuate conference. Cœlio halfe astonished at this straunge kindnesse of the Duke, told him that

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whatsoeuer his leisure was, he was ready to make attendaunce to know his graces pleasure, & with that both of them stepping aside. Valdracko tricking vp his currishe minde with coloured speeches, began to frame his trothlesse talk to this effect.

I need not rehearse, Conte Celio, the hateful dissention that hath continually bred between our auncestours most hapless & bloody euents, & the sparks remaining in vs, a burning fire of reuenge, so that by our dismall and daily iarres, both our houses haue been distempered, & the whole city of Ferrara greatly disturbed. As of late musing with my self, I duly cõsidered ẏ cause of this endles strife, & waighed with my selfe what woful enormities ensued of such rechlesse choler, finding my predecessours wrongfully giuing the occasiõ of this mischieuous quarrel, moued with the sting of conscience, I thought good, as the debate sprang from my parent, so it shuld end in the child: and therfore if it please you to accept my proffer, I here am content to remit al former iniuries, & as we haue been hitherto disseuered by enmity, so we may be united by amity, that not onely Ferrara, but all Italy shal haue cause both to muse and maruel at this our sodaine Metamorphosis, and that you shal not think I mean with painted shadowes to make a glose vppon the text, for the confirming of this my proffered and vnfayned friendeship, I will bestow my daughter Pasilla vpon your sonne Rodento.

Valdracko had no sooner vttered these words, but Conte Celio was driuen into a maze, greatly maruelling at these vnlooked for proffers & ioyeing, at this vnaccustomed friendship, yet fearing to find a pad in the straw, and a burning spark amongst cold ashes, knowing that the Cats halfe waking winks, are but traynes to intrap the mouse, that when the Eagle hideth his talents most close, then he meanes to seaze vpon his pray, ẏ Valdracko was a wylie Fox, and could shadow the darke colours of reuenge, with the glistering hue of reconciled amity: howe he was of a melancholike constitution, & therfore not to be trusted, that his demure countenance foreshewed most despightfull rancour, that Cæsar feared more Brutus for his secret & solemn behauiour, thẽ al his forrain foes for their force & prowesse. These

considerations feared Conte Celio from ventring too farre into an vnknowen foord, yet waying with him selfe that the Duke neither would, nor could dissemble, sith he meant to confirme his promise with such a good pledge, hee thoughte best to accept of his proffer, and to vnite their two houses by so happy a matche. Hee therefore returned him this courteous and friendely answere.

Marvel not (right mighty Duke) if I stand in a maze at this strange and vnlooked for motion, sith at our first meeting, I rather expected opprobrious wordes of despitefull enmity, then any such friendly speeches of desired amity. But sith it hath pleased your grace to passe ouer all former dissentions quarrelles, long time continued betweene our two houses, which hath bred such ciuill mutinies, and secret slaughters in Ferrara: I not only accept of your happy and fortunate proffer, but yeeld cõdigne thankes for your Graces long desired curtesie, offering my son and my selfe to rest wholly and faithfullye yours in all duety to command.

With that, Valdracko embraced the Earle, swearing that he made such account of his friendship, as he would obserue that day as the most fortunate in al his life. The Senat who al this while waited when either these 2. enimies should part, or els fall into their accustomed choler, seing their friendly imbracemẽts, were all amazed with sodain ioy, & driuen as it were into an extasie at this strange Metamorphosis, yet greatly astonished: because they were not priuy to their secrete conference, which the Duke perceiuing, to put them out of their musing dumps, told thẽ how that they two, which neither by the feare of authoritye, nor friendly persuasions, could be reconciled, had nowe casting all old grudges aside, renewed a perfect league of amity, and to confirme the same, they were agreed to vnite their houses, and to marry Pasilla with Rodento.

This happy newes greatlye ioyed the Senators mindes, and also the whole citie of Ferrara, that they sorrowed not so muche before their hatefull dissention, as they now reioyced at their louing agreement. Wel, Valdracko couering the bloo-

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vye minde of a gripe vnder the simple pennes of a Doue, carried the Counte Celio home with him to dinner, where the Duke intertained him with such sumptuous cheere, and solemne curtesie, as the poore Earle thought such heartye friendship coulde not be fained. But when Pasilla saw with what intertainment her father cheered vp the Counte, she marueiled at this strange courtesie, and blushed at her owne conceits, calling to mind her friend and louer Rodento: thinking that since their parentes of enemies, were become friends, that the childzen might of dissembled foes, grow to be professed louers. As thus she was quickening her wits with these amorous conceits, Valdracko and the Earle hauing takē their repast, the Duke calling his daughter vnto him, begā to make her partaker of his new determination, how he meant if she could fancy, to matche her with young Rodento, a Gentleman of worthy parentage, and comely personage, enduced with wit and singular qualities to contente her minde: enriched with wealth, and large possessions to maintain her estate: both yong, beautiful, & rich: great gifts sufficiēt to cōtent, & litle gods able to command, euen Vesta her self to leaue her virginity: if then she coulde consent to loue & like so braue a gentleman, he would thinke her ductifull obedience did requite his fatherly prouidence: otherwise if she shoulde mislike of his choyce, and vpon wilful frowardnes oppose her selfe against his mind, he would not onely repay her fonde mislike with the lyke despight, but also disinherite her of all his possessions.

Pasilla, who was easie to intreate, tolde the Duke, that the commaunde of the father, was a constraynt to the childe, that Parentes willes were lawes, so they past not all lawes: & therefore she was content to frame her fancie, as it pleased his Grace to dispose: this ductifull and modest answere of Pasilla, pleased the Duke, in so muche that to strike the yron, while it was hotte, least any thing mighte fall out betweene the cup and the lippe, they sent for Rodento, who marueilling to heare that hys Father was a gueste to suche an vnacquainted host, came wyth all speede, and beeyng admitted into the chamber of presence, found Valdracko, his father and Pasilla in

ſecret talk. The Duke no ſooner eſpied Rodento, but hee aroſe from the table, and imbracing him, gaue him moſt friendlye and curteous intertainment, telling him what match they had made if it pleaſed him, with a willing conſent to knit vp the bargaine. Rodento halfe ſtifled with the ioy of this happye motion, moſt willingly accepted their proffers, & taking Paſilla in his armes, louingly ſealed vp the match with a few ſweet kiſſes, to their & their fathers happy content. Well, all thinges thus fortunately finiſhed the mariage appointed to be celebrated the nert ſpring, Celio went home to his lodging, leauing his ſonne Rodento paſſing away the time in amorous conceits with his loue & Lady Paſilla. But Fortune grudging at this happy ſucceſſe, croſſed their ſweet and delicious fauours with bitter and deſpiteful frowns: For Valdracko noting the proſperous eſtate of Celio, began to thinke, that vnleſſe he might traiterouſly bereaue him of his life, neither ſhuld his houſe flouriſh, nor his mind be ſatiſfied with reuenge. To breed therfore his own content, & the final confuſion of the Earle, he determined to appoint ſome deſperate ruffian to murther him: which done, he ſhould not haue any man in Ferrara, ý would withſtand him, and he might vſe Rodento as it pleaſed him: paſſing manye dayes in this bloudy intent, ſometime halled from ſuch trechery, with the ſting of conſcience, & then incẽſed to ſuch vilany, with the ſpur of cruel hate, he fel at laſt thus to debate with him ſelfe.

What doeſt thou mean, Valdracko, to trouble thy mind with ſuche balefull paſſions, or ſo much as in thought to intend ſuch deſperate attempts, the performance wherof is ſo vnnatural, as ſuch bloudy actions, if there be any Gods, cannot eſcape without ſome deadly & direful reuẽge? conſider Valdracko, thou haſt promiſed Celio a fiſh, and wilt thou preſent him a ſcorpiõ: haſt thou newly ſworn to be his friend, & wilt thou be his foe? Is the ſon betrothed to thy daughter, and wilt thou betray the father vnto death? what wil Ferrara thinke at this thy trecherie: nay wil ý Gods ſuffer thee to practiſe ſuch miſchief? No no, aſſure thy ſelf Iupiter wanteth not plagues to puniſh ſuch lothſome offences. Tuſh fond foole, if thou ſtumble at a ſtraw thou ſhalt neuer leap

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ouer a blocke, if thou feare to practise, thou shalt neuer perform: it is lawful to dissemble with thine enimy, and to reuenge, is cōmendable. Why Valdracko, is Celio thine enimy? No, he hath yeelded him selfe with submisse, curtesie, to rest at thy cōmand, And hast thou not yet doating foole, learned, that it is better to trust an open enimy, then a reconciled friend, that iniuries maye not be forgotten as long as the scarres remaine, that foes muste neuer be admitted as friends in countenance. Why then shouldest thou stay thy intent for Celios dissembled friendship? No, dispatch him, and then shalt thou be sure, Fortune her selfe cannot daunt thee with mishap.

Valdracko remaining resolute in this his bloody purpose, chose out a desperate ruffian in the city to put this his determination in practise, promising him for his pains three thousand crowns, and to conuey himself out of the countrey. The varlet with whō necessity preuailed, more then either conscience or honesty, condescended, without any denial to the Dukes request, swearing: that as soone as time and place would serue, hee woulde make a dispatch of the Earle, which indeed within few daies he brought to passe. For, as the Counte Celio was passing through a blind lane of the citie, he shot him through with a pistol, and with that fled: but the Citizens rising in an vproare, at the report of this haplesse murther, apprehended the ruffian, and brought him before the Duke and the Senate, who with wayling (but fayned teares) sorrowing for his frindes mishap, exclaimed against such trecherous cruelty, and rising vp as one in a furie, commanded one of his men to cut out his tongue: at which sentence, the vilde wretch amazed, perceiued the Dukes pollicy, and therfore wold haue reuealed his villany, had he not bin preuented by the Officers, who cutting out his tongue, cast it at the Dukes feete. And by that, the report of Celios death was come to the eares of Rodento, which so tormented him, as hee fell downe in a sound, so perplexed, as he almost lost his senses. Pasilla also hearing of this mishap, surcharging her selfe with sorrow, went yet to comfort her beloued Rodento. The Duke himselfe, and the Senate, yea all the nobility of Ferrara, sought to perswade the

young Gentleman, but such was his tender loue towardes hys father, as no counsaile, or comforte, could appease his sorrow. Valdracko to couer his guile, caused first the murtherer, in steed of three thousand crownes, to be put to death with most cruell torments, and then tooke great care for the solemn funerals, prouiding them with such sumptuous cost & charges, as all Ferrara spake of his friendship. Well, the funeralles being ended, and Rodentos sorrow decreasing, by tract of time hee repayred againe to his beloued Pasilla, greatly appeasing his heauye passions by her desired presence, and was more carefully intreated of the Duke then before: for within short time, Valdracko prouided for the marriage, which was solemnised with such magnificence, as belonged to such great and worthy personages. The noble men to shew their dutifull good willes to the Duke, appointed iusting and tourneyes for the honour of the Bride, and the Citizens shewes and triumphes, to signifie their louing obedience, passing many daies in sports and pastimes: Valdracko requiting their affections with such sumptuous cheere and prodigal expences, as all Italy had cause to praise his liberalitie. The marriage at last consummated and ended, Pasilla, and Rodento remaining in such happy estate, as Louers maye, whiche haue the fruition of their loues, thoughte their blisse so propped vp with prosperitie, as sinister fortune could ne[ue]r breede their mishap, but it fell out otherwise. For Valdracko after that his daughter had bin married about fiue monethes, felt the sparks of reuenge to bee raked vp in y dead sinders of hate and malice, which stirred abroad, began againe to grow to a great flame, so that he thought his mind not sufficiently glutted with reuenge, vnlesse he might vtterly race out the name of the Celij, & so he himselfe inioy al their possessiõs, thinking if he might without suspition dispatch Rodento, he should haue most happy successe in all his affaires, neither fearing God, nor regarding the loue of his daughter, so he might finish vp his balefull tragedye. Where, by the way, we may note the pestilent & despiteful disposition of these Saturnists, who vnder the colour of a secret & solemn profession, hide a hatefull and reuenging dissimulation,

proffe-

proffering to Cæsar with Cassius, in one hand a scrowle, in the other a bodkin: kissing loue in the strectes, and murthering him in corners: playing like the hearbe Baaran, whiche heareth a faire flower, but infecteth with the smell. But leauing them to their doating fancies, againe to Valdracko; who still persisting in his purpose, the better to put it in practise, went to a graunge house of his, three myles distaunt from Ferrara, where after hee hadde remayned three or foure dayes, hee secretelye dispatched a letter to his cupbearer, willing him in anye wyse vppon his life and alleageance, to poyson his sonne in lawe Rodento: who after hee had receiued the letter, and read the contentes, seeing the alluring premises of the Duke, if he perfourmed his commaund, and the cruell threatnings, if he denied his request, the nette morning prouided an infectious powder, and gaue him a deadly & fatall draft, whereupon Rodento straight sickened, and within foure hours died: Pasilla tearing her haire, & scratching her face, seeking to kil her self, had not her Ladies & gētlewomē kept her frō such desperat actions. The cupbearer hauing performed this filthy fact, felt such a hel in his cōscience, ẏ taking some of the powder, drank it vp, & so begā to faint with the pains of death. Now whē he was speechless, he sēt for Pasilla, vnto whō he deliuered her fathers letter, & then turning his head yeelded vp the ghost. Pasilla reading ẏ letter, & perceiuing her fathers villainous trechery, began to fal frō folly vnto fury, & with raging termes to curse such a peeuish parēt: at which time Valdracko came home, & hearing this heauy newes, began to fain a kind of sorrow, & wō weping teares to bewail ẏ death of Rodēt. Pasilla grudging at these crocodiles teares, sōwhat appeased her sorow, wō the hope of spedy reuēge, which she performed in short time. For hir father being gone to bed, & faln in a sound sleep, she came into his chāber, & pulling off hir garters, boūd him hād and foot, & thē waking him out of his dreams, as one incēsed wō some hellish fury, staring on his face, shee breathed out these gastfull speches. Thogh the gods (vile & accursed Valdracko) are so paciēt, ẏ they spare to reuenge thy blosdy massacres wō speedy miseries, yet ẏ destinies, not to be cōtrolled, haue appointed me as

a cruel and vnnatural minister of thy fatall mishap. I knowe, & I sigh and sorrow, that I had cause to know that nature requyreth obedience in children, and yet willeth loue in the Parents, that where duty wanteth, there the gods are not slow to reuēge. But I deny to be obedient to such a tyrant, who digresseth from nature, and defie thee for my father, which hast so displeased the Gods. Forgetting therefore lawfully, al dutiful affection, I exclaim against thee, iniurious traytor, who by trechery hast slain the good Counte Celio, and by poison hast murthered my sweet husband Rodento, couering vnder a faire face, a false mind, and vnder the colour of aged vertue, the substaunce of hatefull villany: Could no feare of god nor dread of man driue thee from such detestable dealing: could no sting of conscience deterre thee frō suche deedes: no loue to thy chylde prohybite thee from suche hellishe practises: But why doest thou prattle Pasilla, thou seest they could not. Graunt not to the trecherous wretch then, so much fauour, as to let him inioye one moment of life, but reuenge his wickednesse, and end thine owne woe. And with that, Valdracke was about to speake, but Pasilla incensed with a furious spirit, heaued vp the sword, and wounded him sore, and after many bloody blowes, he yeelded vp the ghost. When she had thus cruelly murthered her father, yet iustlye requited the iniury: she took pen and incke, and wrote the effect of this tragicall discourse, that al might know the cause of this bloody fact, whiche finished, she fell groueling on the sword, and so ended, both her life and her miseries.

Planetoma-

Planetomachia.

Saturne, Iupiter, Mars, Sol, Venus, Mercurie, Luna.

VEnus had no sooner ended her tale, but Saturne rising out of his seate, as one in a chafe, fell into these Collericke tearmes.

Saturne.

Venus, you play like them which seeking to shoote against the starres, are wounded with their owne Arrowes in the fall: or like the enuious Porcupine, who coueting to strike others with her pennes leaueth her selfe void of any defence: you haue here tolde a tale of Valdracko, which sheweth not my crabbed influence, but your owne crooked constellation, for it was the wilfull forwardnesse of Pasylla in her doting fancies, and her lasciuious loue in liking her fathers enimy, that procured those haplesse euents: yea, it was the vnbridled affection of stayelesse youth, not the careful wisedome of setled age that wrought this Tragicall discourse.

Venus.

Saturne, if old men could blush no doubt all the gods should perceiue thou wert more ashamed in pretending so false a cause then in hearing me rehearse the case, but I will not say you doate because you are old, but dissemble because you are wise; so shall I both excuse your fondnesse, and commend your wit: but this I hope I may say without preiudice that your arguments sauour as much of reason as Luna doth of constancie.

Luna.

You might haue said, Venus, as you do of honestie, and so all the gods would haue thought his arguments of small force, but were his reasons as full of substance as you of light qualities, it were against Aristotle to deny either premises or conclusion.

Venus.

Venus.

You learned this Logicke Luna, of Endimion, but let that passe, and seeing Sol is appointed Moderator in this our controuersie, I thinke he cannot but say that the hapleſſe and tragicall euents of this hiſtory came by the predominant influence of Saturne: for was it not the Melancholy diſpoſition of Valdracko that nouriſhed ſo long the glowing ſparkes of reuenge toward the Conte Cœlio: and his Saturnine conſtitution, that with a coulored ſhewe of amitie, repayed moſt faithfull friendſhippe with cruell enmitie: did hee not carry in the one hande breade, and in the other a ſtone: and preferre his priuate iniuries before publike credite or honeſty: yea: did not ſuch melancholicke impreſſions peſter his minde as hee was the cauſe of the moſt tragicall and bloodie Maſſacres:

Mercurie.

Truth Venus, ſuch is the crabbed diſpoſition of Saturne, as they which are borne vnder his influence, delight in tragicall treacheries, performed with moſt ſubtill and ſecreat attempts, ſo that Cæſar feared more the two Saturniſts, Brutus & Caſſius, then all his forraine foes of any other conſtitution.

Iupiter.

Mercurie, you ſpeake without commiſſion, I am glad you are ſo greatly beholding vnto Venus, indeede ſhe cannot want counſellours, nor champions, ſhe allowes them ſuch large fees. But I pray you wherein is my Father Saturne ſo greatly to be blamed: was not Valdracko forced by the diſordinate affection of his daughter Pandina to his enemies ſonne Rodento, rather to preuent miſhappe by ſome ſiniſter meanes, then to bring his hole houſe and famelie, to moſt miſerable decay and ruine.

Mars.

Iupiter, if large fees may make bolde champions, or brawling counſellers, you haue greateſt cauſe both to fight & chide in Venus behalfe, ſhe hath giuen you many a fat preſent, as *Europa danae Alemena*, I haue named ynough I think, to ſtoppe your mouth.

Luna.

Luna.

Mars, what Iupiter hath gotten, I knowe not, but what Vulcan got with his net, we al know, not a fish, but a God. But it is wel yow defend not her honestie but her arguments.

Sol.

Cease from these biting quips, they are fit for brabling Sophisters, not for the gods, and heare my verdict, I am of this minde that the hapeleſſe euentes of this tragical discourse came by Saturnes synister influence, that Cœlios death proceeded of a malicious and secreat hate, that Rodentos balefull mishap spronge from a Saturnine reuenge, predominant in the configuration of Valdrachos natiuitie, imprinting in his aged minde a melancholie despight, which brought to passe this wofull and vnnaturall tragedie. This is my censure: but nowe sith Venus hath ended her tale, Luna, I charge you to report her Astronomical description, because Saturne will speake more of rancor then of reason.

Saturne.

Sol, we haue agreed that your censure shal stand for a sentence, and therfore I will not inueigh against your verdict, but am content to beare the blame of Valdrachos ill nature, yet that you & the rest of the gods may know that there commeth more harme by disordinate & lawleſſe Venus, then by me, I will rehearse an historie, wherein you shall easily perceiue that louelotteth the senses, infecteth youth, destroyeth age, and is the very plague both to the minde and body.

Lunas Astronomicall description of Venus.

The starre of Venus (right mightie gods) is so simplie called, as Tullie auoucheth, *quod ad res omnes veniat*, and the auncient Arabians call it, *astrum genitale* or *prolificum*, for the temperate moisture, and fauorable influence that it distilleth vppon all humaine bodies: for the nature of Venus is to infuse into all inferiour substances, while they are ingendered or nourished a certaine *Humidatum spectum*, or delicate moysture,

moisture, yet notwithstanding so thinne and subtile that it shall rather deduc, then any whit ouerflow: and follow more the nature of deaw then of showers, which naturall and proper qualitie in my iudgement caused the auncient Poets to attribute this Epitheton vnto Venus: *Alma: ab alendo.* Now as concerning her other qualitie of coldnes, we must first note that as we haue in naturall heate placed one that doth cherish and nourish as is Sol, and his irradiat starre Iupiter: so we haue set downe another which doth burne and scorch intemperately, as doeth Mars with his adust and yellow chollar: so likewise in the nature of coldnesse we doe appoint Venus to be temporate and fauorable, and Saturne with his melancholy humor to be infortunate and malignant: of the which opinion are Ptolomeus, Galen, and the Chaldes, saying: that amongst the Planets, there are two fauourable, wel affected, and friends to nature, namely Iupiter and Venus, and two Saturne & Mars vnholsome, bitter lucklesse, and yll affected. To confyrme the which, I will rehearse Ptolomeus owne sentence in the end of his first *Apotellesmaton.* There are foure humours (saith he) or first natures: whereof two are fruitefull Fortunate, and luckie, that is to say, heate & moisture, by which all things do increase & prosper: The other two dismall maligne and dangerous (namelie) colde & drinesse by which all thinges are weakened and ruinate. The auncient Astrologers constitute Venus and Iupiter, temperate in nature for their heat and moisture, Saturne & Mars intemperate: for the nipping cold of the one, & the burning, inflamed, and adust heate of the other. And thus farre Ptolomeus himselfe, by whose verdite we are induced to thinke and affirme that the influence of Venus is moist without any excesse with a smal and temperate warmnesse: which the Poets perhaps respected whē they fained Venus to come of the foame of the sea, calling her *Aphrodite*: but Euripides thinks she is so called (*quod Aphrones sint*) and of an imperfect mind, that suffer themselues to be ouercome by Venus allurements. Of ẏ faculties she doth challenge vnto her ẏ appetitiue & of humors, Phlegme: but yet doulce, vnsauory & natural: yea such as Asclepiades affirmeth ẏ may easily

ſtly be changed into bloud, and for the natiue heat may be eaſily decocted, and thus much for her eſſential deſcription. Nowe as concerning the peculiar affections of thoſe men, in whom ſhe is predominant.

They be pleaſantly diſpoſed, and indued *Attico quodam lepore:* knowing rather the manners of their friends, then hating them: delighting in flowers, and pretious ointments: carrying about them the purſe of Cupid tyed with the blade of a Leeke: ſcratching their head with one finger, and, to vſe the Latin prouerbe (*molle pruncta Lesbiantur, & Cornubiantur:* eating Lettice, and ſtalking on their typtoes: *Lidos more viuentes:* careful to encreaſe beautie, and ſomewhat tickled with ſelfeloue: carrying Honny in their mouthes, and like Spanyels flattering with their tayles: in their right eares bearing oyle, hauing twinckling eyes, and ſoft delicate haire: apt to get children and giuen to propagation: applying theie minds to ſongs & ſonets, addicted to pittie, mercie, and fauour: *Et in vtramuis aurem, & vtrunque oculum Dormientes.* The peculiar diſeaſes to this ſtarre are Cathars, Coryſe Bzanchy, Lethargies, Palſies, Apoplexies, *Gonorrhea paſſio*, obſtructions of the raines, bladder, & belly, with paines in the ſecreat parts: quotidian feuers, paines in the heade: *Lienteria diarrhea diabete*, dropſies, & other more, proceeding of crudities, exceſſe and abundance of Phlegme, windineſſe, imbecillitie of heate, perfrigerations, & ſuch others. As touching their pulſes they be ſmal, ſlow, & ſoft, their ſweat, vnſauorie: vrine, pale and thinne: their deiections white, moiſt, and full of Crudity: dreaming for the moſt part of waters, Bathes, Fiſhings, Snakes and ſuch like.

Saturnes Tragedie.

The City of Memphis is highly commended for the nourſe of good letters, becauſe in that place learning was rewarded with her due deſerts, & ignorance, as neere as might be, ſo vtterly exiled, as euerie Mecanicall man was able to yealde

a reason of the principles of his science. In this Citie, famous in those dayes for learning and vertue, dwelled an infamous strumpet called Rhodope, descended of good parentage, and of comely personage, honorable for her birth, and renowmed for her beautie: but her outward hue was so spotted with inwarde vice, as her praise was not such for the perfection of the body, as the discredit was for ꝑ lasciuious disposition of her mind, which was so stained with wanton affections, that I thinke Venus her selfe coulde not haue past her in vanities. This Rhodope racking her honestie to maintaine her pompe and pride, forgetting shame and conscience (two vertues long since exiled from Venus Court) set her bodie to sale, and in the prime of her yeares became a professed courtesan: so that for the appointed price, euery stragling straunger might pray vppon such lothsome Carrion. This shamelesse strumpet tooke small delight to be seene in the Citie: but when shee went abroade to take a view of the streetes, shee past in such sumptuous sort that the Citizens a long time after had matter ynough to talke of her magnificence. It so fell out on a day, that shee determined to go sport her selfe at a fountaine (which is dedicated vnto Venus) a miles distance from Memphis, whether shee went accompanied with such young youthes, as were smatred in her alluring beawty: being come to the place which for the seituation seemed to bee an earthly paradise, after they had refreshed thēselues with stoare of dainty delicates, which were prouided by Rhodope, they past away a great part of the day with amorous conceiptes and pleasant parles: till at last the weather waxing somewhat warme, Rhodope desirous to bath her feet in the coole fountaine, caused one of her maides to pull of her shooes, which were imbrodered with gould, and richly besette with stones, which she diligently doing as she laid them on the greene grasse, verie necessarie to helpe her mistresse off with her hoase, an Eagle soaring a loft, and seeing the glistering of the goulde, souced sodainely downe and carried away her right shooe in her gripe, which sodaine sight greatly amazed Rhodope marueiling what this straunge and prodigious

chance

chaunce shoulde portende: beginning straight coniecturally to construe this happe to the worst, but her companions were of an other opinion, for some of them saide it was a signe of good lucke, other that it was a token of honour and dignitie: All (her selfe excepted) saide the best, because women are most pleased with praises and promises, and shee rested to thinke the best, whatsoeuer in outward countenance she did pretende. Well, after they had diuerselp delcanted vppon this euent, shee with her company returned to the Citie of Memphis, but the Eagle with the shooe tooke her flight to the Court of Psamnetichus, who at that verie moment was walking alone in his priuie Garden: assoone as shee came ouer the kings heade, not by chance, but by some infortunate and dismall destinie, she let the shooe fall, and with a marueilous crie soared againe into the ayre: which soodaine and prodigious sight so amazed the olde king, and so astonished his senses, as they which gazed at the gastlie heade of Gorgon. At last come to himselfe, he tooke vp the shooe, marueiling whether it did belong to some heauenly Nymph, or some mortall creature. The shape pleased his fancy, the glistring beautie thereof delighted his eyes: (to be short) Cupid the accursed sonne of Venus, seeing him at discouert, drewe a boult to the heade and strooke Psamnetichus at the verie heart, which perced him so deepe, that hee began not onely to like the shooe, but to loue the owner of such a pretious Jewel: feeling a tickling affection to enter into his minde, whereuppon he began to smile at his owne follie that he should be so fond now in his age to doate, more then he did in his youth.

Where by the way wee may note the despightfull mallice of Venus, who perceiuing that her infortunate and ill affected influence, is hindered by a vertuous disposition, and that although her accursed configuration be of great force to infuse a certaine proneslie to vnlawfull venery, yet being preuented by a prouident and well disposed mind, it doth little auaile, *quia sapiens dominabitur astris*. Then incensed with an enuious rage, she seeketh to intrap vertue with the stumbling blocks of vice,

and to inchant the minds of the wise with her poysoned and allu-
ring sorceries: letting passe, neither time nor toile till shee
hath brought wisdome to such a bay: as either shee must yeelde
to her mal king follie, or buy her quiet with perpetual torment:
but leauing Venus to her vanities, againe to Psamnetichus:
Who seeking to shake of this new found affection, flong out of
the garden into the chamber of presence where hee founde his
sonne Philarkes and other noble men dauncing with the La-
dies and Gentlewomen; vnto whom both he shewed the shoe
and reuealed the chaunce, promising that what Ladie
coulde pull it on, shoulde haue what Lawfull demaunde shee
woulde make. All desirous of gaine and glorie (beleeue
mee, two Idols that women most honour) assailed to winne
the price, but it was as easie for them as for Vulcan to drawe
on Thetis slipper on his poult foote: whereat Philarkes and the
noble men smiled, but Psamnetichus pinched with an vnac-
quainted passion, began to imagine what heauenly creature she
was, to whom this shooe did belong: feeding himselfe in this
musing humor vntill such a burning desire crept into his minde
that neither reason, nor counsaile could allwage, so that with-
drawing himselfe into his secreat chamber holding the shooe in
his hand, he cast himselfe on his bedde, where he murmured out
these or such like complaints.

Ah thrise vnhappie Psamnetichus, what vnfitte fancies bee
these for thy aged yeares: what fonde thoughtes for thy gray
heares: what vnmeete mulings for thy stayed minde? wilt thou
seeke to rake for quicke coales among dead cynders: to search
for freshe flowers among withered weedes: to sow youthfull
desires in aged mindes: if thou doe this Psamnetichus, thinke,
though thou hast but a short time to liue, yet thou shalt haue a
long time to repent. For loue in age is like fyre among drie
sticks which kindled with ỳ least puffe, is quenched in the least
moment. Loue Psamnetichus: whie art thou in loue, yea: with
whome: Alas I knowe not, and therefore the more infortunate
is my loue. Pigmalion fell in loue with his Marble picture
an affection so straunge, as he was both blamed and pitied for

doating

doating on such a senslesse Image. A Senators sonne in Rome loued extreemly the Iuory picture of Vesta, whiche wroughte him such discredit as he was exempted for bearing office in the citie. Were my case such, I wold think my selfe fortunate. But a shoe of golde is the only thing that bewitcheth my mind, such a straunge fancie, as time hath neuer made report of the like. Tush Psamnetichus, it is not the shoe, but the Dame that oweth the shoe, which hath inchanted thy affection: it is the Idea of her person, which by a secret imagination, is imprinted in thy minde, that hath pearced thy heart: seeke then by some meanes to free thy selfe from those fetters, whiche vnlesse thou vnloose, thou canst not but loose. Dye then Psamnetichus, for nothing can free thee from loue but death. It is no earthly creature, but some heauenlie goddesse, that oweth this Iewell, the excellent shape of her, to whom this precious gemme doeth belong, was neuer placed on earth, but enthronyzed amongest the heauens, the woorse is thy happe, and the lesse cause hast thou to hope: to hope? why not? Psamnetichus no doubt, shee is a woman, and therefore to bee wonne with prayses, or promises, for that shee is a woman.

As thus he continued his complaints, his sonne Philarkes came into the chamber, whereupon Psamnetichus ceased, and for that time made no shew of sorrow, but passed away the daye with other talke. The night beeing come, faining himselfe not well at ease, hee giuing his sonne and the other noble men the good night, went to his bedde, thinking by sleep to haue driuen away such fonde affections, but he was no sooner layd, but waking slumber, and halfe dreaming thoughts, so tormented him, that he coulde take no rest: whereupon he began to cast a thousand doubtfull coniectures in his minde, what he had best to do: at last he found out this deuise.

He called to remembrance that there was in his court a certayne skilfull magician called Nestor, who by his secret science might not only be a meanes to discouer what Ladye was the owner of the shoe, but also if through frowardnesse (a disease common to Venus darlings) she refused his proffer, might by some

amorous potions, ayde him to obtaine his purpose. This pollitick conceite pleased him passing well, so that on the morrowe (fearing that delay might breede daunger) hee sent for this olde doating Nestos, who comming to the kings presence, and with great reuerence, doing his obeisance, craued to know his Maiesties pleasure: Psamnetichus curteously resaluting him, tooke him by the hand, and led him into his priuy garden, where charging him firste vppon his life and allegeaunce moste secretely to conceale whatsoeuer he shoulde in that place make manifest: then hee broke with him in the matter, promysing if hee coulde tell him by his arte who owed the shoe, hee woulde rewarde him so largely, as he should haue cause to speake of his bountie: otherwise if by negligence he should be found slacke, he would so bitterly reuenge his frowarde disobedience, as hee shoulde haue cause both to curse himselfe and his science. Nestos allured with the large promises of the King, and feared with his sharpe and cruell threateninges, made answeare, that what were able to bee doone by Arte, shoulde with all skilfull diligence bee performed: and hereuppon hee craued three dayes to make a shewe of his cunning. Psamnetichus (suche was the heate of his newe kindeled fancie) thought it a longe time to yeelde so small a verdict, yet hee was content, hoping by this meanes hee shoulde bee fully satisfied. Calchos leauing the King in his dumpes, hyed him home to his lodging, and entring into his study, began to fal to erecting of figures, to take the eleuation of the pole, and the houre wherein the shoe was found, but these superstitious ceremonies would not shew what hee sought for: so that in fine, from consecrating, hee was faine to fall to flatte coniuring, wherein after hee had swette lyke a dogge to adiure the Dyuell, hee perceiued by the Oracle, that hee had made an ende of his woorke, whiche hee had no sooner doone, but with all speede that might bee, hee posted to the Courte, where beeyng admitted to Psamnetichus presence, all the nobles commanded to auoyde the chamber, hee vttered these wordes.

I am sorry (right mighteye Prince) that I cannot iustly conceale,

reale, that your Grace hath straightly cõmanded me to reueale, my alleageance forbidding the one, & your highnesse so strictlye vrging the other. I haue done what learning & science cã allow, yet vnwilling to shewe what ỹ froward destinies do allot. But I hope wisdom shal preuent that, which fancy seeketh to prætẽd. The Lady which oweth this shoe, is one whose perfectiõ of body is greatly darkened with the imperfection of the mynde, and whose singular beauty is such, yet so stained with the spot of lasciuious vanity, as all may iudge shee was framed by nature to despight vertue. It is Rhodope, that infamous strumpet of Memphis. Nestos had scarse vttered these words, but Psamnetichus (as one inraged with a franticke passion) beganne in most cruel termes to exclaime against Loue and Fortune, braying out such bitter curses against Venus, & her inequall lawes, that poore Nestos seeing his vnbridled furie, was more afraid to perswade him, then to coniure a diuell: trembling a while for feare, that the king should wreake his wrath on his old carkase. At last when Psamnetichus had somwhat appeased his furious passions, he rewarded Calchos and licensed him to depart, withdrawing himselfe into a secret place, where hee powred forth these complaints.

Ah vniust Venus, and most accursed Cupid, whose hatefull delight, is to drowne men in vnequall thoughtes, and to make them doate in vnfitte fancies, seeking moste to allayle those myndes whiche thinke themselues moste safe vnder the shielde of vertue: coueting with bitter pleasures to procure sweet tormentes, and with seruyle affections to intangle free myndes. Alas I see, and I sigh, and sorrowe to see, that there is no dignitye, honour, age, nor yeeres, whiche cannne resist the alluring charmes of Loue. Loue Psamnetichus: why doest thou loue: It is a worde vnmeet for thy mouth, but a passion farre more vnfit for thy minde. Thy graye hayres are fruites for death, not blossomes for Venus. Thy yeeres are too bee spente in repentyng thy former follyes, not in renewing freshe and amorous fancies. It is more fitte for thy age to caske howe to dye, then to care howe to loue. Peace Psamnetichus, doe not

so

so much as once name loue: why not? Trees may haue rootes, though no leaues, and though flowers fal, hearbes maye haue sap. Loue in age is a vertue, so it be not blemished with inequall choyse. Truely, fonde foole, but what choice haste thou made? Of some famous Princesse? oh no, it were too well: of some begger? were she vertuous, why not? Oh Psammeticus, woulde to God it were so wel. No, no, thou hast chosen Rhodope, a strumpet, not halfe so famous for her beauty, as infamous for her vanity, one whose honesty, nay dishonesty, is to be bought by euery stragling stranger. Loue is vnfit for thy yeeres, because thou art old, but such loue is vnmeet for thee were thou neuer so young. What wil the peeres of Egypt say, if they heare but of thy doting thoughts? wil not thy poore subiects sorrow to be ruled by suche a Queene? But alas, what will Philarkes doe? Surely either seeke to cut her daies shorte with vntimely death, or to ende his owne life with continuall griefe. Ah Psammeticus, it were more honourable for thee to die by concealing loue, then liue and inioy such hapelesse loue.

And with that he fetcht such a deep sigh, as it might wel witnesse, how he sought with hatefull disdaine to quench such fonde desires, striuing with reason to bridle appetite, and with wisedome to suppresse affection, flying from that by his owne will, whereunto he was led by an infortunate influence, but he found that to wrestle with loue, was with the crab to swimme against the stream, and with the Deere to feed against the wind: wherupō feeling such a deep impression to enter into his heart, as neither counsel, nor reason could race out, he yeelded an vnwilling consent to loue, thogh the only thing he sought to hate. Pinched a long time with these contrary passions, his care and sorrow so increased sorrowing, that he had made so ill a choyce, yet careful how he might obtaine his choyce. that his aged and feeble complexion, weakened with a more heaue burden, then he was able to beare, had almost yeelded vnto death. His sonne Philarkes marueling at his fathers vnaccustomed dumpes, seing that he had made a change of his wonted pastime, and pleasures for solitary thoughts and contemplations, cast diuers coniectures

in

in his head; what might be the cause of his fathers sodain sorow, sure he was, it could not be for want of honour, in that he was a king: if gold might make one merry, as no doubt it is the onely wherstone to mirth, his father wanted no treasure. Egypt was not pestered with ciuil tumults, nor troubled with forrain inuasions. Al which things duly cōsidered, hee coulde not coniecture what shuld be the occasion of his fathers sorrow: so ẏ desirous to know, what should be the cause of his care, and willing (if it lay in his power) to redresse it: finding his father within few dayes alone in ẏ garden, at his accustomed dumps, he brake wyth him to know the cause of his dolor, crauing reuerently of his father, if it were his pleasure, that he would make him partaker of his griefes, seeing that there is no better remedye for a troubled minde, then to participate his care to some secrete friend, promising (as it was his duty by the law of nature to protest) that if his life might bee a meanes to appease his heauye passions, hee would most willingly free him from those perplexed sorrowes.

Psamnetichus hearing the dutifull obedience of his sonne, & noting with what vnfained protestatiōs he vttered these words, partly for the ioy hee conceiued of his sonnes good nature, and partly for the remembrance of his owne doating affections, hee burst forth into teares, yet seeking to conceale, that shame forbad him to reueale, finding this excuse most fit for the time, and his straunge passions.

Philarkes, thou knowest euery thing is measured by his due time. The spring hath fresh flowers, and pleasant gleames. Autumne withered leaues and bitter stormes. Youth is paynted gazing at the starres, Age looking downe to the ground. Pleasaunt conceytes are the blossomes of young yeeres, and melancholy thoughts, the fruites of gray haires. I tell thee Philarkes when I was young, I delighted in mirth and labour: and nowe being old, I ioy in ease and sadnes. Thou marueilest how I can be so subiect to dumpish thoughts, and I wonder how thou cāst be so free frō care and griefs. It is not want of prosperity, but the experience of many yeeres, ẏ hath taught me in age to think how to die. The ioy of my youth, and the comfort I should haue

bee being old, is gone: I meane thy mother Farina, the remembrance of whose death, makes me as sorowfull as thy life and obedience makes me ioyfull. Cease then, good Philarkes, to enquire the cause of my care, and seeke not to redresse that whiche nature denieth to haue any remedy.

Philarkes was satisfied with his fathers answere, but Psamnetichus more troubled with his sons demand, so that he could take no rest, but lingred in doubtfull thoughes, til at last reason yeelding to appetite, and wisedome to affection, he determined to enioye a full content, though he both ouerthrew him selfe and his kingdome. Beeing resolute in this determination, for the better bringing to passe of his purpose, hee appoynted that his Court shoulde bee kepte at the Citye of Memphis, and heereupon commanded, that with as muche speede as might bee, the Court shoulde remoue. The Courtiers willing, because the Winter drew on, to soiourne in the citie, vsed great diligence in dispatching their affaires: and the Citizens hearing that the King should come, willing to shew themselues dutifull subiects to so louing a Souerain, indeuoured to receiue him in the most sumptuous and solemne manner they coulde, prouiding shewes iustes, tourneyes and triumphes: sparing no expences, to shew their dutifull affections. Psamnetichus perceiuing by outward actions, the inwarde good will of his Citizens, requited theyr kindnesse with such friendly curtesie, & princely magnificence, that with one generall assent, they all prayled his bountie and vertue.

Psamnetichus setled thus in Memphis, began now only to care how he might enioy the sight of Rhodope, hoping ẏ when he had glutted his eyes with her beauty, he should free him selfe from the snare of disordinat fancy. To send for her to the Court, was the ready meanes to reueale his folly to the whole worlde, and to repaire vnto the house of a Curtesan, was to dishonor his princely dignity, with a seruile discredite: but to remayne stil in the hellish passions, was in life to suffer farre worse paynes then death. At laste, seeing his troubled minde coulde finde out no shiftie deuise, hee thoughte it beste to make some of his trustye

seruants

ſeruauntes prõpto his affections, who perhappes by ſome ſubtill pollicie might procure him to obtaine his purpoſe: and hee thought none ſo fitte for the participating of ſuche a waighty matter, then his Chamberlayne Zoraſtes: vnto whom on a daye when hee founde fitte time and opportunitie, hee reuealed the whole matter, laying before him two baytes, preferment, and death, promiſing that if in ſecrete wiſe hee could helpe him to the ſight of Rhodope, hee woulde bountifully rewarde him with liuinges and dignities: otherwyſe if eyther he ſhoulde halte, or bee founde ſlacke in the performaunce of hys commaunde, all toztures and tozmentes ſhoulde bee too eaſie for the reuẽge of his diſloyalty. Zoraſtes hearing with ſorrow this hapleſſe pretence of the King, knowing that hee was ſo reſolute in his purpoſes, as no reaſon or counſell coulde diuerte from his determinations, thought perſwaſions woulde little preuaile: and therefore told him, that if his Maieſty would followe his deuiſe, he would that night bring him to the ſighte of Rhodope, in ſuch ſecret ſorte, that no man but they two, ſhould ſo much as once ſuſpect the matter. For the fulfilling of this his promiſe, hee aduiſed the king to faine him ſelfe ſicke, and to giue a ſpeciall charge, that none, no not his ſonne Philarkes, ſhoulde trouble hym, vnleſſe they were ſent for by Zoraſtes. This done, hee willed Pſamnetichus to diſguiſe hym ſelfe in the attire of one of his Gentlemen, and then they two paſſing out at a poſterne gate, which opened into a darke lane, might wythout daunger or ſuſpition, goe vnto the houſe of Rhodope.

This prety pollicy greatly pleaſed the king, ſo that without any further conſultation, hee put Zoraſtes deuiſe in practiſe: for aſſoone as the night came, he changed both his apparrel & countenaunce ſo cunningly, as hee might bee taken rather for ſome ſtale Courtier, then for ſo mightye a Potentate. Hauing made thus an vnfitte Metamorphoſis of him ſelfe accompanyed with Zoraſtes, hee paſſed thorough the Poſterne, and wente ſtraight to the houſe of Rhodope. Where wee maye note, the intemperate and malicious influence of Venus, who by her

ieradian constellation, do worke such straunge affectes in mens myndes, as after they haue yeelded a little to her allurementes, neither wisedome, age, reason, counsaile, dignities, nor honour, can race out her disnaturall and malign impression: yea, her infused working is of such force, that whoso is pricked forward by her enticing perswasions, seeth no daunger, or discredite so hapelesse, which he will not aduenture to obtaine his purpose. But nowe to Rhodope, who beeing certified by one of her maides, that a Gentleman of Psamnetichus Courte was at the doore, attyring her selfe with most costly iewels, and perfuming her house with most sweet odours, she sent for him vppe hastely, and at his comming, intertayned him with such amorous glaunces, & lasciuious curtesies, that he began both to maruel, and smile at the artificial sleightes of suche an infamous strumpet: seeyng with what cunnyng dissimulation, shee beganne to shewe a fayned kinde of affection, and how gayne had taught her to allure the myndes of euery straunger, he began to conceiue a loathing hatred of her lewd life, that desire was ready to turne to disdaine, had not wanton and lasciuious Venus with the inticing charm of beautye, inchaunted hys doating affections.

For when he had gazed a while on her excellent perfection, seeing there was nothing in her, her minde excepted, but that was singular, hee exclaymed agaynst the Gods, that to despyghte nature, had placed suche hellishe conditions in such a heauenly creature. But such was the force of vnbrideled fancie, that hee could not conceiue suche disdayne at her vanitie, as hee dyd desire to her beauty. For his senses were so besotted with this alluring Syren, that he lost at last not onelye his libertye, but his life, by her pernitious trecheries. Well, Psamnetichus passing awaye the Euening with Rhodope, in suche hapelesse pleasures, as he then thought most happy, hauing somewhat satisfied himselfe with her desired presence, at last tooke his leaue, and giuing her the farewell, with an vnwilling Conge, departed speedily, and secretely to the pallace, whither beeyng come, no sooner he was entred into his chamber, but casting him self vpon his bedde, the beautye and perfection of Rhodope, gaue

him

him such fierce assaultes as he could take no rest, but at last hee burst forth into these complaintes.

Psamnetichus, woulde to God either thou hadst beene borne to lesse dignities, or more wisedome, so should thy hap haue been better, or thy discredite lesse: but where will is a subiect to folly, wishes are counted but too fonde. Thou art a King Psamnetichus, and aged: thy honour might perswade thee to more vertue, and thy yeeres disswade thee from such vanity. Wilt thou yeeld to loue her, whose staylesse affection, neither likes any, nor loues her selfe: if thou wilt haue a Concubine, choose such a one, as may onely be at thy will, not at euery base vassals commaund. In deede Rhodope hath done a misse: what then? may shee not make amends? yes no doubt, though she hath flattered them which are subiectes, she will, nay shee dare doe no otherwise but fancie thee which art her soueraine. Rest then content Psamnetichus, Rhodope may be woone, and what canst thou wish more? Alas yes, for vnlesse she be my wife; neither can I like, nor she loue. Thy wife? will thy counsaile and commons agree to such inconuenience? will thy sonne consent to such an vnequall match? will they fonde foole? nay they shall: in despight of them my will shall stand for a law, and I will followe content, not counsaile. Rhodope is worthy to be a Queene, and I say, that none in Egypt dare gainsay: she shalbe a Queene.

And with that, feeding him self in his humour, he fel a sleepe, passing away the latter part of the night with many pleasant dreames. On the morning assoone as he got vp, he assembled the Dukes and nobles of Egypt, and commaunded them vpon their allegance, they should not depart from the court till they heard further of his pleasure. The same day hee caused writtes to be directed into euery part of his kingdome, to sommon the Lords and Barrons to a Parliament, which shoulde be holden within xv. dayes. This straunge and sodaine newes made the Lords of the counsaile to maruell what weightie affaires the king had to enact by statute, which hee would not make them priuie vnto: so many men, so many wits: euery one yeelded his verdicte but all mist the Cushion: especiallie Philarkes be-

beginne to muse that his father had not tolde him the cause of this sodaine conuocation: but seeing it was the kings pleasure, to conceale the secrete to him selfe, they rested contente till it might be made manifest in the open assemblie.

The day of the Parleament being come, the nobilitie arayed in their roabes, attended vppon the Kinge to the Parleament house, where euery one set in his degree, as the common speaker was ready to haue made his Oration, the Kinge willed him to silence, commaunding that Rhodope shoulde ber sent for, and that then he would declare the cause of their assemblie. This draue them al into dumpes, euerie one whisperinge to other their verdict of the Kinges wil. Some thought there was some great complaints made to the king against her for her lasciuious life. Other thought she had pretēded some treason against his person: al by imagination suspecting the worst, yet not halfe so ill as the sequell proued. The message was no sooner deliuered to Rhodope but a quaking feare possessed al her ioyntes, doubtinge shee had committed some haynous facte whiche deserued death: or ý because she was a common curtisan, the King meant to confiscate her goods to the Crown. These & such like doubts daunted her mynde: yet chering her selfe somewhat, for that she knewe she was guiltlesse from murther or treason, decking her selfe in riche and costlie attyre, shee wente with the garde to the Parleament house: whereinto alloone as she was entered, with reuerent obeysaunce kneelinge before the Kinge, shee fearefullie attended to heare his Maiesties pleasure. The Dukes and Lordes of Egipte were driuen in a maze at the excellent beautie of Rhodope, cursing & accusing the gods of iniustice, that had blemisht such excellent perfection, with suche imperfecte qualities. But Psamneticus gazing a long while on her face, began almost to fall a sleepe in sweete conceites, til at last putting such thoughtes out of his mind, with a sterne and disdayneful looke, he vttered these speeches.

It is no marueile if you stande amazed (Right mightie Princes of Egipte) to see your King, who was woont to craue youre consent in small affayres, without youre councell nowe to be-

to begin a thing of such greate importance, I meane a Parlea-mente. But hee that seeketh to haue his purpose vnpreuented, must not plume his actions with times feathers, leaste either fortune or counsayle hinder his enterprise. Many thinges fall out betweene the cuppe and the lippe: and daunger is alwaies a companion to delay. To take away therefore all occasions of hindrance, I haue vpon the sodayne assembled you, not onely to heare what I can saye: but without either doubt or denial, to confirme what I shall say: death hauing depriued me of her in my latter yeares who was my onlie Joye in the prime of my youth, I meane your good Queene Farina. And although I am olde yet not so striken in age but that I muste and can yeeld to affection: so that I intende, nay I wil in dispight of all menne, take Rhodope heere present to my wife, and before we depart from this session, shee shalbe crowned Queene. It may be, nay I am assured you all wil greatly mislike of the match, & grudge that your king should marry with a Curtisan. But I charge you all in generall, & I wish each one that loueth his owne life, neither with counsaile nor reason to perswade mee from that I haue purposed, least he incurre further daunger, and my perpetuall displeasure.

Psamnetichus vttering these wordes with a furious countenaunce, draue the Noble men to sylence: But Rhodope into a greater maze, that the king vppon so small acquaintance shoulde choose her for his wife: whereuppon conceiuing an vnspeakeable ioy (for a womans heart swelleth with nothing more then honour) shee with humble reuerence kneeling vppon her knees, extolled Psamnetichus curtesie, that he woulde vouchsafe being a king, to looke on so base and infamous a creature as shee was, promising to remaine his handmaide, prest to performe what his grace coulde either wish or commaunde, if the losse of her life might accomplish his desire. But Philarkes, who sat nipped on the pate with this straunge newes, inraged with wrath and choller, coulde scarse keepe his handes from preuenting his fathers miserie, by the violent death of such a vile strumpet, which Psamnetichus partlie

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perceiued by his countenance, wished him to speake his minde without controlement, whether hee liked of the match or no: promising to pardon whatsoeuer was saide. Philarkes with a face fraught full of furie, and a minde inflamed with choller, choosing (if he might) rather present death then to see his Fathers dignitie attainted with such dishonour, vttered his minde briefly in these words.

May it please your highnesse, I feare to offend, if I say what I should, & yet were loath to flatter, in saying what I woulde not: but sith I may haue free libertie to speak what I think, my verdict shalbe soone giuen. I confesse that what pleaseth the father ought to content the sonne, and therfore I count Psamnetichus will a law to Philarkes; yet as obedience wisheth a consent, so nature willeth with a friendly denyall to diswade from things that offende, not onely men, but are euen hateful to the gods. I say therefore, that Psamnetichus should get more honour by exiling such an infamous strumpet, not ouely from Memphis, but out of all the confines of Egypt, then if he had obtained more triumphes then that inuincible Cæsar. No doubt your grace shall soone, nay I feare too soone, finde my words to be true, that in hoping to get a sweete content, you shal gaine a sowre disquiet: like to them which pleased with the couler of the tree Lotos, are poysoned assoone as they tast of the Apples.

Psamnetichus, such was his loue, or rather vnbridled lust, as he would not suffer Philarkes to speake any word more, but in great choller protested if his promise had not beene past, hee would haue made him repent those opprobrious speeches. The Noblemen seeing the kings furie, were all in their dumpes, and durst not for feare of death gainesay ỳ which he had said, so that presently Rhodope was appareled in rich and princely roabes and by two of the chiefe Dukes of Egypt lead from the Parliament house to the temple of the god Appollin, where the Archflamyne, as his office was, not only crowned her Queene, but also with the sacred rites celebrated & finished vp the marriage: in the honour whereof the Noble men making a vertue of their necessitie, appointed certaine triumphes and shewes

dissembling

dissembling their inward sorrow with outward conceites, and shadowing the counterfeite of griefe with pleasures colours. But poore Philarkes pinched to the heart wᵗ his fathers doting follie, spente the whole day in blubbring foorth bitter teares, so that he was faine to absent himselfe from the banquit: whereas Psamneticus feeding his eies more wᵗ gasing on the incōparable beautie of his new forewoorne spouse, then his stomack with any daintie delicates, feasted his Citizens and subiectes the space of twelue dayes, so sumptuously as they might perceiue he spared for no cost to shewe his liberall minde. But as the longest sommers daye hath his euening, so this feaste being ended, and euery one departed to their houses, Psamneticus and Rhodope liued with such sweete content as two such new maries couples can enioy. This secure quiet continued by the space of one whole yeere, till Venus either grudging at their halfe honest loue, or disdayning that Rhodope had begun to leaue her accustomed vanitie, and was waxen more charie, and lesse amorous, thought to shew her lawlesse power by some more vnlawful meanes: she therfore sought to yoake that necke whiche as yet was neuer tamed, and to inflame that hearte with a burning desire, whiche hitherto had beene frozen with a colde disdaine, to bringe whiche to passe shee wrought this hapelesse meanes.

It fortuned yᵗ on a daye as Rhodope looked out of her Chāber windowe, shee espied yonge Philarkes playing at the bareiers with diuerse noble men his companions, wherein he behaued him selfe so valiantly, as hee shewed that hee was farre superiour to them all in courage and valour. Rhodope commending in her minde both his prowesse and perfection, began to be tickled with a more then accustomed affection towardes him, for the gray heares of Psamneticus had alreadye glutted her fancie, and the yonge yeares of Philarkes began to sharpen her halfepined stomacke: for womens affections are not feade with kingedomes or treasures, but with youthfull conceites & sweete amours. Age may be alotted to gaze at bewties blossomes but youthe muste clime the tree and enioye the fruite.

Well, Rhodope being a woman, and therefore both amorous and inconstant, chamed not to disdaine the father and desire the sonne: yeelding her selfe captiue to lust at the first alarum. To be short, Venus had so snared her in the beautie of her sonne Philarkes as her only ioy was in enioying the sight of his person, yet as there is no weede so hadde which serueth not to some vse, nor confiction so deadly which hath not one good simple; so in Rhodopes minde, holely stained with vice, there were some sparks of vertue: for she considered with her self, that Psamnetichus of a common and infamous strumpet, had without ante desert, but vpon meere affection, made her a Queene: and if she should so falsifie her faith, the gods would not suffer such disloyall ingratitude to be vnreuenged. Further, the impossibility of obtaining such incestuous loue, was a meanes to perswade her from such lasciuious thoughts. But shee whom Venus had blinded with shamelesse affection, cared not for these considerations, but followed her owne forwarde will, seeking not to represse her lust, but how to enioy her loue: so ẏ she began to shew Philarkes, more then accustomed fauors, painting her beauty out with fresh coulers, & seeking to intrappe the young Prince with alluring flatteries, and amorous glaunces. Philarkes whose young yeares were apt for loue, began more narrowlie to marke the beautie of Rhodope then he had done before, seeing her singular perfection to bee such, and her beautie to be so rare, that she stained not onely all the ladies in Egypt, but as he thought in all the world, resembling rather a heauenly Nimph then a mortall creature, insomuch he thought his father not to be blamed for making so good a choice, and wishing himselfe if euer he married as happie a chance. These sparkes of affections grew by time to a greate flame, so that he began not onely to like, but to lust after Rhodope which he sought to represse with these reasons. First he perswaded himselfe that incestuous adultrie was a sinne so repugnant to nature, as the verie brute beastes did abhorre the committing of such a fact, and that it was so odious both to the gods and men, as it were better to committe either sacreledge, or murther: but these

thoughts

thoughts could not quench that which iniurious Venus had once set on fire, for he felt his mind so passionate with ỹ beauty of his mother in law, as no counsaile might appease his maladie: yet nature and vertue so much preuailed, that he chose rather to die then to consent vnto such vnnaturall disloyaltie: his griefe so increased by concealing his disordinate fancies, that hee fell into a dangerous sicknesse, hauing his heade so weakened with continuall care, and vyke some passions: that hee was almost brought into a frensie. Plammetichus seeing his sonne thus perplexed, sent for the most learned Phisitions in all Egypt, but neither could they coniecture his disease, nor redresse his maladie, which so grieued the king as he tooke no delight but in sorrowing for his sonne Philarkes. Rhodope, who was more then half sick with the same disease, intending to see if she could find out the cause of his sickness, decked her self in her brauest attire and went to visite Philarkes: comming into his bedchamber, and finding him lying as one in a trance, shee commanded all to auoyd the chamber for a while. Philarkes no sooner saw Rhodope, but he start vp in his bed and fixing in her face fetcht a deep sigh. She who by her former occupation was a great calculater of such secreat passions, knewe without feeling of his pulse, where his greatest paine was, sitting therfore downe vpon his bed, taking him by the hande she intreated him with sugred speech, & amorous perswasions to vnfold the cause of his sickneese, promising not onely to conceale it, were it neuer so secreat, but to redresse it if it lay in her power, were it neuer so daungerous. Philarkes hearing Rhodope vtter these vnfained protestations, hoped that he might haue some successe in his suite, but shame of his vnlawful requeest, enioyned him a long time to sylence, til at last affections banishing feare, with bashfull face and blubbring teares, he reuealed vnto her the cause of his sorrow, how her beautie had so inchaunted his mind, and bewitched his senses, that vnleese her consent were a conserue to cure his care, there were no meanes to free him from his passions but death. Rhodope no sooner heard Philarkes vtter these wordes; but as one in a rage she rose vp talking with

bitter termes against his folly, whereas God knowes, it was the onely thing shee desired, a womans faulte, to thrust awaye that with her litle finger, whiche they pull to them with both theyr handes. Although Philarkes saw her in suche a chafe, yet hee would not giue ouer the chase at the first default, but stoode fast to his tackling, insomuch that after a few consenting denialles, she agreed, assoone as place and time would serue, to fulfil his request. Philarkes sealing vp the bargain with a few sweet kisses, rested content with this desired consent, and in shorte time recouered his former health, to the great ioy of his father Psamnetichus, and his mother in law Rhodope.

Well, these two hapless louers, liuing a while in their supposed happinesse, the gods grudging at such vnnatural actions, reuenged their brutish disloyalty with a speedie & cruel punishment: for so it fell out, that Psamnetichus spyed in shorte time their (not to be named) villany on this wise.

The king being gone on progresse, left the Queene at home, as he thought, halfe sicke, (for what cannot women faine to fulfill their fancies) and commanded his sonne Philarkes to beare her companie, vntil his returning: not thinking to repaire to Memphis, til a moneth were fully expired. Psãnetichus beyng gone, the two louers floated in blisse, hauing such fitte opportunities for the fruition of their loues, as they could wishe or imagine. But the king doating on the beautye of his young wyfe, had not been absent ten dayes, but that he tooke post horse, and rode very secretly and speedily to Memphis, where beeyng arryued, passing in at the posterne gate, onelye accompanied wyth Zoroastes his chamberlain, he found Rhodope and Philarkes in bed together fast on sleepe. Which strange & vnnaturall sight so danted the old king, as a quaking cold possessing his limmes, hee stoode trembling for the horror of suche a brutishe fact, till his chilling feare turning into a flaming choler, hee fell almost into a raging frenzie, yet hee somewhat appeased his furye, tyll hee hadde sente for twoo or three of hys Noble menne, which hee had lefte at the Court to bee attendaunt in hys absence vpon the Queene, that they myghte bee wytnesses of

this

this vnnaturall incest. They were no sooner come, but with raging threats, he wakened the two hapleſſe Louers out of their ſweete ſlumber, who seeyng Pſamnetichus and the noble men ſtanding by, as beholders of their villainous adulterie, were so amazed, as they could not vtter one worde. The king disdayning to debate of ẏ matter with theſe vilde wretches, pullyng foorth his arming ſwoorde, at two ſtroakes diſpatched them both: a puniſhment too good for ſuche a haynous offence, and a death not ſharpe enough for ſuche inceſtuous traitours.

Pſamnetichus had no ſooner finiſhed this tragicall ſtratageme, but aſhamed at his owne doating follye, and ſorrowefull that his ſonne had ſo farre tranſgreſſed the lawe of nature, went preſently into his ſtudye, and there finding a vyall of poyſon, to releaſe hym ſelfe from inſuing miſeries, ended his daies with that deadly confection.

(:.:)

Zm

¶ A briefe Apologie of the ſacred Science of *Aſtronomie.*

CLazomenius Anaxagoras being demanded wherefore he was borne, anſwered, to behold the Heauens, and that whether his feete could not carry him, hee might with ſight and minde arriue: thinking that man was therefore framed, with an vpright countenance to behold the heauens, and as it were in a Glaſſe to contemplate the glorious Maieſtie of his Creator, that he might not wholy addict himſelfe to the fading pleaſures of this worlde: nor be drowned with doating on the momentary delights of theſe earthly felicities, but applie his actions and thoughts in conſidering the deuine eſſence which might drawe him to loue and honour ſuch a GOD, as had wrought ſuch a miraculous frame. But iniquitie hath ſo greatly altered the ſtate of times, and ſuch is the peruerſe nature of man, that hee wholy forgetteth the cauſe of his Creation, and with Poliphemus in Homer, doe almoſt deny that there is any God, or careth for the ſight or knowledge of the heauens: And with the Epicures placeth his content in his Vineyards, and granaries, gaping after pelfe, and thinking his contemplation high enough in gazing after the painted ſhadowes of fading riches: in which (becauſe waking he doth ſleepe, and ſleeping he doth watch, being hongrie: yet filled, and though neuer ſo

full, yet with the thirstie Serpent Hydaspis is neuer satisfied) he doth with Antyphanes pronounce this sentence, *Mortalia mortales decent.* Esteeming the contẽplations of the heauens & heauenly misteries, to be vaine and ridiculous, and with doting Democritus carying in their minds this peeuish Paradox.

Mitte Arcana Dei, Cœlúmque inquirere quid sit:
Cum sis mortalis, quæ sunt mortalia cura.

But this sentence: *quam Epicurissimum oleat*, let the learned iudge whose deuine thoughts reache vp to the skies, and there with secret contemplation doth contemne the baze minds of such as with the Scarab Flye, delighteth only to liue in dung and mire: whose peeuish dispositiõ Tully in his *Somnio Scipionis* doth exclame against, where he saineth that Scipio being translated vp to the Heauens, and seeing the vanitie of these fond worldlings, doth cry out against their folly, and cõdemne them as mad men, which wonder at any mortall thing, when onely those heauenly and superiour marueils are to be contemplated and admired. Thrise vnhappy then wee be thought, who are not delighted with this sweete and pleasaunt contemplation, and whose minds are not moued with the wonderfull works of God and Nature. He is a foolish beast, not a man (sayth Plato) whiche is not delighted with the studie of Astronomie: whereof God himselfe is the author, in which opinion is Marcus Manilius in his Astronomicall discourse to Augustus Cæsar, where he deuiseth it to be possible, that the knowledge of things so farre different from vs, should bee comprehended by any mortall man, without a deuine inspiration giuen vnto them from God, which he noteth in these words.

Fœlix qui ad sydera mittit.

Sydereos oculos, propiúsque aspectat olympum:
Cognatámque sequens mentem se quærit in Astris.

But no marueil though the ignorant do inueigh against this sacred science, when as the learned men themselues do neither

make

make account of Astrologie, nor yet exercise it: But when by chaunce they happen vpon any that do for want of skil prognosticate any thing amisse, they straight cõdemne the starres and hate Astrologie it self: iudging it rather false and friuolous, thẽ either true or necessarie: much like them which hearing an vnskilfull Musition sing, rashly without reason doe despise Musicke it self. As touching the antiquitie of this sacred Science, and the first inuenters thereof, I will make briefe report, that both the ignorant and learned may perceiue in what credite it hath beene with our Auncestors. The first finders out of the secret misteries of Astronomie were the Ethiopians: the cause thereof proceeding partly of the wisedome of that Nation, (for in al other things they haue a marueilous prouident foresight) partly of the opportunitie of the Region wherein they inhabite: for because with them there is a continuall clearenesse of the skye, without any mutation of the peare, measured with an equall and temperate proportion: So that when they first sawe the Moone not alwaies appearing with the same countenance but of a variable shape, chaũging from one forme into an other, they thought this matter worthie with great diligence to bee sought out: in which quest after they had waded a while with industrie, they found that the Moone had no proper light of her owne, but borowed it of the Sunne. They also sought out the course of the Starres, which we call wandring Starres or Planets, discouering their essence, nature, effects and qualities, giuing them names according to their proper and peculiar vertues. These things first the Ethiopians fouñ out in the Heauens: then they taught this Art (although then imperfect) to the Egiptians, who found out the reason of Diuination, increasing the Science greatly: shewing the perfect course and motion of euery Starre, the number of the yeres, moneths and howers, measuring the moneth by the course of the Moone, and the yeare by the annuall reuolution of the Sunne. To which also they added great matters, setting downe the order of the wandring Starres, and fixed Starres, appointing the

Zodiacke and the twelue signes through which they passe by course, painting them forth in diuers shapes and figures: some representing men, others Foules, beastes, and Fishes: whereof the Egiptiãs did vary in their holy rites. For al the Egiptians did not diuine generally by all the twelue signes, but did seuerally eche one vse his particular. Therfore they honored a Ram, which serued by Aries: they eate no Fishes which take any annotation by Pisces: neither doe they kill a Goate which respect Capricornus. What other thing did their Idoll Apis portend, but their Astronomical coniectures by Taurus? Thus the Egiptians profited greatly in this Science: wherein presently after the Lybians began to excel, and after them the Babylonians, who affirme they were the first finders out of Astronomie: but I thinke the Science was long vsed by the Ethiopiãs, before the Babylonians had any perfect sight therein. The Gretians neither receiued the knowledge of Astrologie of the Ethiopians nor Egiptians: But Orpheus the sonne of Æagar and Calliope, was there first Schoolemaister, who taught them no plaine way but in darke problemes and misteries: For he instituted certaine Feastes called Orgia: wherein vpon his Harpe he deliuered them in Sonnets the principles of Astrologie. Furthermore, by his Harpe which had seuen strings, he did represent the consent of the moueable Starres: which when he did strike he did ouercome all things, and mooued both Stones, Birds and Beastes. The Poets by this signified his great skill and industrie in Musicke: & the Gretians willing to honour him, appointed him a place in the Heauens, wherein a fewe Starres being conioyned in one circle is called Orpheus Harpe: so that if euer you shall see Orpheus either carued in a Stone, or painted out in colours, he sitteth in the middest like a Musitiõ holding a Harp in his hand, & about him a great multitude of creatures, amongst which there is a man, a Bull, and a Lyon, representing that part of the Zodiack nerest vnto the which he doth approach. It is reported also that Tyresias the Boetian, was very famous in the art of deuination,

tion: And the Poets faine that he was both man and woman: but for no other cause then that he found out how the Signes and Planets were some feminine and some masculine. It is euident also how greatly the Gretians esteemed the Science of Astrologie, when as Atreus and Thiestes striuing for their fathers Kingdome, were by a common consent of the Argiues allotted, that whether of them excelled others in Astronomie should enioye the Empyre. Then Thiestes shewed them of the signe of Aries in the Zodiacke, whereof it was fained that Thiestes had a golden Ramme. But Atreus told them of the course of the Sunne, and of his rising and setting, that he was the middest of the Planets, and gaue light to the rest: of his motion, and swiftnesse, and of his peculiar vertues and properties, whereof the Argiues made him King and honoured him greatly. The like I suppose of Bellerophon, who I thinke did not ride on a winged horse, but being skilfull in this Science, was contemplating daylie among the Starres, so that he ascended into heauen, not by a flying horse, but by a wise and conceiuing minde. The same is to be thought of Phrixus, the sonne of Athamantes, whom the Poets report was caried vp & downe in the Ayre vpon a Ramme. And as for Dedalus the Athenian, I esteeme him to be a perfect Astrologer, in which Science he greatly excelled in his time, and instructed his sonne therein. But Icarus tickled forward with the heate of youth, and trusting to much in his vnperfect skill, began at the first to search the deapth of Astrologie, and to wade so farre in the intricate misteries thereof, that climing to hie he erred from the trueth, and fell headlong into the deepe Sea of supernaturall conceipts: whereof the Gretians said he was drowned in the Sea called Mare Icarium: Neither doe I thinke that Pasipha fell in loue with a Bull, and by the meanes of Dedalus obtained her incestuous pleasure, but that hearing by his reporte of the Signe Taurus placed in the Zodiacke, she fell in loue with the science of Astrologie, and by the meanes of Dedalus, had skill in the same: so that she was saide, copulare cum Tauro.

Amongſt them which haue beene fauourers of this Arte, ſome haue laboured in one part and ſome in an other: one ſeeking to knowe the perfect courſe of the Moone: ſome of the Sunne: others of the reſt of the Planets, according to their particuler diſpoſition: as Endimion whom they faine to haue ſlept with Luna: and Phaeton to be the ſonne of Soll: but theſe being fables, did yet allude vnto their Aſtronomicall qualities, wherewith theſe men were ſeuerally indewed. For who is ſo ſimple to thinke that Eneas was the ſonne of Venus: or Mynos the ſonne of Iupiter: Aſcalaphus of Mars: or Antolycus of Mercurie: but that in the configurations of their Natiuities, Venus was predominant in the one, Iupiter and Mars in the others: that as in the begetting or procreation of children, they take ſome likelihoode of their Parents, ſo being borne vnder one of the Planets, they borrowe of them their forme, ſhape, valour, mindes, and actions: for by the happie aſpect of Iupiter Mynos became a King: Eneas borne faire by the fauour of Venus: Antolycus giuen to deceipt and robberie through the malignaunt influence of Mercurie. Furthermore, neither did Iupiter caſt Saturne into boundes, nor throwe him headlong into hell, nor offer him theſe vnnaturall iniuries which the Poets faine. But Saturne is very ſlowe and dull in his motion, and is farre remooued from our Horizon, ſo that his motion may hardly bee marked of mortall men: and for this cauſe is ſayd to ſtand as though bound in chaines. But who ſo narrowly conſidereth the ſacred and miſticall verſes of Homer and Heſiod, ſhall finde their fictions did tende to the diſcouerie of Aſtrologie. For where as he teſteth of the chaine of Iupiter, and of the Darts of Sol, I doe thinke he meaneth their irradiation: in ſhewing the Cities which Vulcan did ingraue in the Target of the Adulterie of Mars and Venus, and there diſcloſing by all the Gods, reſpecteth onely the miſteries of this Science. And although Homer hath ſhewed of the concurſe of Venus and Mars: yet in other verſes he ſeuerally deſcribeth there diuers influence, as thus.

Tute venus iucunda magis connubia cura.

Then as touching Martiall affaires.

Cuncta cito hec curæ fuerint Martiq; Mynerua.

These things mooued our auncestors greatly to esteeme of Astrologie, so that they neither builded cities: made or edified any walles, killed any man: nor married any wiues before they had asked counsell of the Astronomers. Yea, the very Oracles of the Prophane gods were not different from the Arte of Astrologie. For at Delphos euery virgin deliuered the meaning of Apollos doomes, which represented the signe Virgo, & in Dydymus he had a Temple which signified the Figure of Gemini: in fine, Astrologie was so honoured, and counted so holy a thing, that Licurgus the Lawgiuer of the Lacedemonians, did partly direct the gouernment of his cõmon-weale, by the couse of the Heauens: instituting a Lawe, that when they would inuade any forraine nation, they should not go to warre before the full of the Moone: thinking that the administration of a Cittie was not all one in the full and in the wane. But although our auncestors were thus studious of Astronomie, and delighted greatly in the science: yet in these our daies we affirme that it is impossible to find any end of this arte, because it is neither certaine nor true, and that neither Mars nor Iupiter are mooued in the Heauens for our cause, neither haue the Planets any care of humane actions: but are necessarily caried about in their Globes & Spheares. Unto which foolish obiection, not I, but Ptolomie doth answere.

Aio stellas in cælo, suo quidem motu volui: Caterum obiter eius motus effectum ad nos peruenire. An vis equo currente, & gallinis, aut hominibus tumultuantibus, lapides subsilire, stipulásque moueri ventis cursu concitatis, & syderum vertigine nihil aliud effici, quam pro motu proposito? Quum modici ignis ad nos calor defluat, nec prorsus nostra causa ignis ardeat (non enim curæ illi est nostra calefactio) cur syderum nullam recipiemus defluxum? sanè fieri non potest, vt per astrologiam ex malis bona faciamus, neq; mutare quicquam earum rerum, quæ ab illis ad nos

demanant

demanant. Thus much Ptolomey. Now I thinke, ỳ according to Ptolomey this ſcience is very profitable: to them which vſe it well. For when as by a perfect calculator proſperitie and fortunate ſucceſſe is prognoſticated vnto vs, they breede in vs a delightfull hope that they ſhall enſue: but when any ſiniſter miſhappes are foreſhewed and foreſeene, then they are leſſe greeuous, becauſe they are warely lookt for, and ſo by time the burden of ſuch inſuing daungers, by a prouident foreſight is ſomewhat mittigated, and this is my ſimple cenſure of Aſtrologie: which I conclude with the Golden verſes of Ouid, in his firſt booke *de Faſtibus*.

Fœlices animæ quibus hæc cognoſcere primum,
Inque domos ſuperas ſcandere cura fuit:
Credibile eſt illis pariter vitijs q́, ſociſq́,
Altius humanis exeruiſſe caput.
Non Venus & vinum ſublimia pectora fregit:
Officiúmque fori, militiæue labor:
Non leuis ambitio, perfuſaque gloria fuco:
Magnarúmque fames ſollicitauit opum.
Admouere oculis diſtantia ſydera noſtris:
Æthera q́ ingenio poſſuere ſuo.

AMI-

AMICO SVO AMANTISSIMO FRANCISCO HANDO IN ARTIBVS MAGISTRO DIALOGUS ſanequam venuſtus ex operibus Ioan: Ioui: Ponta: breuiſsimæ excerptus Dicatus.

Quo docetur quatenus Cœleſtium prognoſticorum ſignificationes procedant. Et quod voluntas ſolius hominis propria illis nequaquam ſubijciatur: modo ſenſuum titillationibus, & cupiditatum illectamentis non acquieuerit.

Robertus Greenus: & Franciſcus Handus.

HANDVS.

QVid ni mihi cum aſtrologis bellum ſit? Cum Ioannem hunc videã qui tam multa ſcripſit de ſyderibus, ſæpenumero illis iraſci, nec omnino ſatisbene de illorum dictis atque enuntiatis ſentire cum tamen eius diſciplinæ ſit ipſe mirifice ſtudioſus. Quanquam vt mihi ſemper viſus eſt non vt Ioannes Pycus in ipſam diſciplynam armis equiſque quod dicitur erumpit, cum illam tueatur vt cognitu maxime dignam ac pene diuinam. Sed Aſtrologos quoſdam vt parum cautos miniméque prudentes inſectatur ac rides.

GREENVS.

NOn temere hoc quidem Hande, quid enim magis ſiue abſurdum, ſine temerarium, quam quod coniecturis precipu. conſtet, id neceſſarium eſſe velle? Cum enim cœli, ſyderúmque agitatione inferiora hæc (quod liquido apparet) citatu moderentur ſuo: nequaquam tamen quæ ab illis immittuntur, eiſdem numeris, eadem quo-

que quæ portendantur via vbiq́ue eueniunt: quòd res ipſæ inferiores ſuperioribus illis cauſis, aut non omni è parte aſſentiantur, aut repugnent.

HANDVS.

Sunt illa igitur cauſæ agentes ac primæ, ha verò patientes, ac ſecundæ.

GREENVS.

Nimirum ſunt: nam nec calor ipſe ſolis vbiq́ue eſt æqualis nec terrarum ſitus idem, ac par omnium. Quodque ad communium res ſpectat, voluntates ipſæ noſtræ, modo ſenſibus imperare voluerimus, liberæ quidem ſunt, ſyderalibúſq; agitationibus aliquanto validiores: quod quonam modo fiat, id ſi aperuerim, non indignum conuentu iſto videatur. Quatuor hæc corpora, quæq; alio nomine ſunt elementa, & materiam generationi ſuggerũt, vel ipſa eadem potius ſunt materia, quatuor humores ſubminiſtrant, ex quibus hæc conſtant omnia. Hi pro motu ſolis, lunæq́ue, ac vtriúſque habitu (ne de aliis nunc loquamur ſtellis) in aſſiduo vbiq; ſunt, aut incremento, aut imminutione, quæ è re generatio cietur atque corruptio: & proinde in eodem nunquam perſiſtunt ſtatu: quando & ſolis, & lunæ mutationes ipſi quoq; imitentur: ac luna continenter pènè fluctuet. Sol vero erraticis cum ſtellis nunc ſit ipſe propior, nunc contra remotior ab regionibus quas incolimus. Quibus è rebus & incrementa ſequuntur humorum qualitatúmque, & item imminutiones. Has ad res permultum etiam conferunt regionum tum ſitus, tum habitus: cum Apulia, Libia, Ægiptus, aptior ſit calori, ſiccitatiq́ue augendæ quam aut Germannia, aut Gallia: hæ verò quàm illæ frigori atque humectationi. Ad hæc terrarum aliæ nõ multam quidem hominum exiguunt aut operam, aut induſtriam in re frumentaria procuranda: aliæ contra ſuapta natura parum ſunt feraces. Quid quòd habitus ipſe locorum alibi obtuſiora gignit ingenia, alibi magis acuta, eadémq; verſutiora? Quo fit vt tam multa quoque rerum earundem ſint varietates: quod in ſaporibus potiſſimum, at ſuccis oſtenditur: itémq; in animalibus, ſiue fœris ſiue alitibus: actum in celeritate eorum, tum etiam

in

in statura & robore: vt humores ipsi non solum cœli & stellarum agitationes sequantur, verum etiam agrorum naturas, ac regionum tum situm tum habitum. Quod cum ita sit, ne stellarum quidem effectiones vbiq; aut eadem, aut pares esse possunt. Quæ qui Astrologus probè considerauerit, vix ille longius aberrauerit à cœlestium prognosticorũ significationibus verè pronuntiandis: quoúsq; tamen coniectura ipsa sese tutò conferre poterit. Hæc igitur ipsa, cum tantopere inter se dissentiant, ac tam sint cognitu difficillia, quàm profecto sunt, nata est hinc obseruatio: cuius proprium est intueri, quæ appareant signa: eaque animaduersa, multúmque retenta in mente, quid tandem adferant expectare: indéque à re ipsa prognostica dicta sunt. Non tamen vt semper præstent quæ promittere videantur. sed quod plerúmq; tantùm, cùm & medici, & nautæ, ipsi quoque agricolæ in curationibus, ægritudinibúsq; itẽ in pluuijs aut serenitatibus frugũq; prouentu, aut huberiore, aut modico non raro se à signis deceptos querãtur. Minus vt mirum videri debeat, si Astrologi quoq; fallantur: cũ ipsæ aliquando causæ in vicẽ pugnent, actionésq; ac passiones inter sese (vt dictũ est) nõ vno modo dissentiãt. Tertio ante anno Cãpanus ager æstiuis pluuijs plus solito laborauit: eodem tamen tempore in agro Brutio, ac Crotoniensi, de nimia siccitate atq; æstu vineæ exaruerunt. Hinc igitur vanæ Mathematicorũ prædictiones, quòd ad ea quæ portendi videntur à stellis, non omnes cõueniant simul causæ: permultáq; eos lateãt, quemadmodum & medicos. Et hi quidem frustra haberi solent, non solùm propter naturam morbi, & humorum parum cognitam, verumetiam ægrotantium, & regionis, aerisque ipsius ob alias causas, atque alias, ac tuum ventorũ tuum exhalationum. Illi vero propter incognitas stellarum misturas, aut quod in id tempus incidant significationes aliquarum siue copulationum, siue eclipsium aut cometarum, multis ante anuis eas portendentium, quæ parum quidem obseruatæ fuerint. Interdum, quod regio ipsa perniciosis à ventis aut vexetur, aut à salubribus defendatur, plusque venti ad prohibendum valeant, quam ad nocendum hostilis stellarum irradiatio. An non hetruriæ maritima pleraque pestilens est ora, propter paludes, halitusque malignos ab his afflatus, aurásq; illos agitantes: cùm colliuæ eius regionis sunt

quam ſaluberrimâ? Itaque, & in locis illis paluſtribus ſalutiferæ ſtellarum configurationes parum prodeſſe per æſtatem poterunt: & collinæ ſalubritatis non adeo maligne nocebunt ac peſtilentes. Patrij quoque mores conſuetudinéſque, & municipales artes, neo non inſtitutæ tum publicæ, tum domeſticæ, multum in vtramque partem conferunt ſyderalibus configurationibus. Quid, quod rerũ certa cognitio eaque ſcientia dicitur in generalibus per ſeruationibus verſatur? Quis igitur humorum ex quibus conſtamus ſingulares adſequi poſſit, ſiue commiſtiones, ſiue temperaturas? Quis curſus ſyderũ particulares vires, quæ tum abſtruſiſſimæ ſunt, tum pene etiam infinitæ? Quis item aduerſantium, inter ſe cauſarum digladiationes particulatim cognitas, & obſeruatas habeat, & quantum, & quouſque? Itaque illi ipſi qui ad particulares prædictiones dilabuntur, ab ipſo etiam Ptolomeo habentur deriſui: Cùm neceſſe ſit eorum coniecturas, obſeruationéſq; hac in parte vacillare: ipſaſque non ſolùm deerrare à via, verum turpiſſime delabi, deque veſtigio ruere. Videſ igitur Hande vnde tam multi Mathematicorum errores proficiſcantur coniecturéque tam fallaces: vt iure quidem iraſci illis & poſſis, & debeas, in peſtilentijs prædicendis, itémq; in ſterilitatibus, tempeſtatibus alluuionibus, & euentis alijs.

Veniamus nunc ad hominum voluntates, quibus ſi ſeſe ipſæ ſenſibus dominandas permiſerint, nihil eſt fluxius, imbellius, addam etiam fractius, domabiliuſque. Contra, nihil quod ſit illis generoſius, robuſtius, imperioſiuſque, vbi ſenſus ipſos eorũmque illecta menta nihili fecerimus, miſerimúſq; ſub iugum. Vendidit Marc. Cato confectum, iam ſenio equum: qui cum ipſe ſiue conſul, ſiue prætor militauerat. Marcus inquam cato optimus ſui temporis Orator, optimus ſenator, optimus imperator, ſic enim eſt habitus. Cur vendidit? quia voluit: quia plus apud eam attenuiſſima illa valuit parſimonia cura, quàm ratio, & ſenatore, & oratore, & imperatore, tam valide etiam ſpectato digna. Quodque vſurpare eſſet ſolitus, bonum patrem familias vendacem eſſe oportere magis, quàm emacem, voluit etiam in re ſua preceptum id pertinaciſſime tenere. At coactus eſt ad hoc ipſum ab natalitia cœli, ſtellarúmq; configuratione. O cœlum auariſſimum, ô ſtellas tam atte-

nuato

suate ac sordenter parcas, quæ in hos tam attonitos, ac tam opere pertinaces. Potuit proculdubio cœli, stellarúmque configuratio Marcum Catonem facere ad Parsimoniam propensiorem propter humorum è quibus constaret compactionem: non tamen ut eũ summa & senatorum, & ciuium romanorum fiue accusatione, siue irrisione, militarem, vel consularem potius equum, vilissimo etiam captus pretio venderet: ac si equus ille, nascente Catone, solicitas stellas etiam de sua venditione fecerit.

Ptolomeus Aegyptiorex sororem suam duxit uxorem, impulsus videlicet expugnatúsq; natalis cœli, ac stellarum themate. O prophanum cœlum cum themate etiam tam impuro, & inquinato: in quo tam immanis reposita esset libido. Quis vel etiam summe improbus, ac pertinax adseuerare hoc audeat? Etenim configurationes illæ intemperantiam tantam parerent humorum & concretionis corporeæ atque in re quidem venerea: detur etiam & in sororea coniunctione. An non fœlicissimus ipse rex, & potentissimus, poterat quod quidem noluit sororem suam alij matrimonio locare ipseq; aliam sibi ducere? At medici, vel medicis adhibitis medicamentis, humorem, qui nimius sit temperant, cogunt q; sub regulũ: qui nimius atq; attenuatus, eũ exsiccant, & attollit. Tu vero rex eximie, minime potuisti nefariã istã libidinem continere: quod videlicet noluisti. Patrauit igitur scelus hoc, quia voluit: nam si noluisset, qua diximus via euitare illud omnino poterat. Quod vt patraret, credibile est multas, variásque in ea re cogitationes consumpsisse: sed passus est à libidine tandem se vinci. At apud Persas eiusmodi matrimonia, & erant vsitata, & concessa: secutusque est finitima gentis exempla. Iam qua promptitudine secutus est ipse Persas? Cur non Macedones secutus est ipse suos? Laudatissimósq; macedonum reges? Nequaquam autem secutus est, quia noluit: quia imperari maluit sibi à libidine, quam ipse libidini imperare. I nunc & cœlum incusa, ac stellas, nefariasque stellarum configurationes.

Nero Augustus singulari fuit crudelitate nobilitatus: quis sane tamen cogitationis inficietur, in procreando Nerone seminis, humorúmque temperaturam, è qua fotus ipse, & concretus est, apprime malignam fuisse? stellásque ipsas eam ad rem plurimum

mum adiumenti contulisse, vt suapte natura Nero procliuis esset, atque incitus ad sæuitiam? Fuere igitur huius rei causæ, tum natura ipsa è qua Nero constitit, quòd malè esset fermentata, tũ stellarum malus habitus, peruersaq; configuratio, quæ aut humorem secuta est, malignum illum quidem, atque peruerse affectum: aut eum malignitate, ac depriuatione affecit sua. Est, detur hoc quidem. At inuenire noua suppliciorum genera, inusitataque excogitare tormenta, & cum artifice conuenire, qua via ad maternum naufragium nauicula expertum strueretur, Neronis hæc fuit, sanguinariæq; eius volũtatis, non stellarum ac cœli. Fuit autem Neronis, quia voluit, voluit autẽ, quod ab ambitione rapiebatur, qua expugnatus, conculcauit ipse rationem. Sed desine (mi Hande) pluribus iam exemplis vti, maximorum etiam virorum, quarum valuntates victæ cupiditatibus, aut sensum captæ illecebris iere precipites. Quocirca, his in hunc modum explicatis, quæramus eadem hec aliquando exploratius.

Principio, laus omnis, vituperatioq; versatur in voluntarijs actionibus, existitq; ab illis. Quum enim (natura duce) moneamur, ad ea cupienda quæ boni alicuius speciem præ se ferant, eaq; à sensibus represententur, de quorum titillatione animus sese excitat: non prius tamen ad ea peregenda, quibus adsecuturum sese illa confidat, animus ipse expergiscitur quàm voluntas quò suscitetur: quæ initio quidem vt libera, ac sui iuris latius euagatur: post verò secum adhibita in consilium ratione, ac frænum sibi ipsa imponens, eo accepto sese ipsa moderatur, redigitq; intra præscriptum: mox deliberanda eligit, quæ pro facultate ac viribus eligenda videantur: quin ratione duce, illa ipsa perscrutatur diligentius, perpenditque maiore cùm pensitatione, quæ a sensibus sunt oblata, an talia sint, qualis species eorum sese offert: sint necne vtilia ipsa, & iucunda, an rursum inutilia & molesta. Post vero his perpensis, & cognitis, euagationeq; illa tam libera sub frenum coercita, iter statim ingreditur, quo quæ eligenda esse duxit, peruenire ad ea possit Iuris itaque, atq; arbitrij eius fuit, vellet necne sine eligere & persequi, seu nihil omnino curare. Est igitur suapte natura, statimque ex quo suscitata est, libera: quæ rationem si sequatur, libertate vbique suam & tuebitur, & retinebit: sin relicta

ratione à sensibus delinita illis obsequatur, nimirùm amissa libertate, captiua ducetur, & quæ imperare ipsa sibi noluit imperia seruet alieno. Est igitur sui iuris ac libera, quoties sese a sensuũ, malorúmque cupiditatum vi, ac captiuitate tuebitur. Tunc verò facilè tuebitur, cùm excitata inter eam, sensus ipsos controuersia, bona ne sint, an mala quæ à sensibus offeruntur, rationem sequitur: illámque sibi in auxilium vocabit: cuius etiam consilio vtetur ac ductu. Annon tibi voluntas ipsa videatur libera, quæ cum sensibus ire certamen descendat? quæ victrix animo erasura sit, præterquam si illorum insidiosis blanditijs capi se patiatur. Demũ quia ad actiones tunc accingimur, cum voluntas ipsa voluerit, & elegerit, & decreuerit suscipiendũ aliquod, siue inceptum, siue negotium, merito actiones ipsæ ad voluntatem referuntur: quæ si cum ratione progredientur, nimirum ipsa laudabuntur: contra, vituperabuntur, vbi & in eligendo, & in progrediendo, de rationis via aberrans, sensumque delitijs emollita cupiditatem sequitur ducem, ac illius inhærebit vestigijs. Non solùm autem res ipsa, actionésque voluntatem liberam esse testantur, verùmetiam nomen ipsum deliberandi: quod videlicet liberum eius sit in decernendo iudicium, velit ne suscipere, & persequi, an contra desistere, ac sensum ipsorum manitu dilabi sinere. Legum quoque constitutores ac moderatores populorum idipsum testantur: cum impunita dimittant crimina, quæ furentes admittunt, atque insania percitis: quod voluntaria ea minima sint, nec furentes ipsi liberi aut sint, aut haberi debeant. Postremò autem considerandum videtur, cùm sensus ipsi corporei sint, singulíque corporeis vtantur instrumentis, vt auribus ad audiendum, oculis ad videndum, naribus ad odorandum, palato, linguaque ad gustandum, manibus siue alia corporis parte ad tangendum: voluntatem tamen ipsam nulla parte corporis vti, nulláque re corporea: quin aut deliberat, aut eligit, decernitque: quippe cum vis ea, potestásque, tantum sit animi, atque ex omnibus animalibus hominis vnius: quò fit vt ceterorum quidem sit siue impetus, siue instinctus tantummodo. homini verò voluntas propria, & peculiaris. Igitur sit stellarum effectiones versantur in corporibus inferioribus, & in his rebus tantùm quæ ex elementis constant: ipsaque elementa campus

quas

quasi quidam sint, in quo stellæ vires suas exercent, quanam via voluntates hominũ illarum agitationibus subiectæ erunt? quarum iurisdictio tantum sit in elementis, rebúsque elementaribus? Animus verò, & incorporeus ipse sit, & ab omni prorsus elementari qualitate ac conditione vacuus: cuius vis potissima quidẽ sit ipsa voluntas: quæ actione: ad quas homo natus est, vel commendatione honestet, vel exprobrio damnet, & contemptui proijciat. Iure igitur (mi Hande) mathematicis illis succenses & Astrologis, qui ad omnes res futuras predicandas, hominumq; mores, ac fortunas ab ipso ortu statim pronunciandas tam sint apti, ac si in eis nulla sit libertas, nulláque deliberandi, aut eligendi, siue ratio, siue authoritas: quæ quidem tanta est, vt homo sui iuris sit in his administrandis omnibus, in quibus animus imperare habeat: nec corporis ei opus sit ministerio, ac præsidijs.

Possunt tamen cœlestes configurationes impedimento illis tunc esse, ac sese animo ipsi opponere: cum corporeis atq; externis auxilijs, ac fauoribus indigeat. Vbi verò actiones solius tantum fuerit animi, frustra tunc de stellarum actionibus, ac viribus disputatur: cùm, vt dixi, animus ipsi liber sit, ac suapte arbitratu eligat, decernátque.

Hæc habui tecum (mi Francisce Hande) tuámque in defensionem quæ hic dicerẽ: Longius fortasse quàm portio dicendi ferret mea: breuius certè quam res ipse exigit. Quamobrem finem his faciam: si prius tamen hoc subdiderim: Hominum illarum numerum oppidoquam exiguum esse, animum qui colant, animiq; arbitratu vtantur, atque imperio: cum multitudo fere vniuersa corpori sit onimo debita, corporeísque illecebris: vt fortasse Mathematicis ipsis & Astrologis permittendum sit, laxissimis etiam habenis currere ad Apotellesmata pronuntianda.

Planetho-

Saturne. Iupiter. Mars.

Soll.

Venus. Mercurie. Luna.

Assone as Saturne had ended his tragicall historie, Iupiter with a smiling countenaunce began to vpbrayd Venus in this sorte.

Iupiter.

VEnus, it is better they say to sit still then to rise vp and fall, and more honor to put vp iniuries with quiet then to reuenge with losse: In seeking to dishonour my father Iupiter, you haue wrought your own discredit: resembling the Woolfe, which whilest he lurketh to deuour the Lambe, is himself sore bitten with the Panther. What hapelesse and vnnatural actions do proceed from your incestuous influence, the Gods may perceiue by the sequell of Saturnes tragicall historie; wherein he hath drawne such a perfect Anotomie of lawlesse loue, as no doubt it is the onely spight that displeaseth the Gods in heauen, and pestereth men vpon earth.

Venus.

Sir, you mistake the matter, for these tragicall euents proceede not from the effects of Loue, but by the fleeting inconstancie of Luna, whose mutable influence breedeth in Ioue a fickle desire to sport in chaunge: for the often iarres betweene you and Iuno come not in that you are louers, but bicause Luna hauing a place in euery nativitie, setteth downe this sentence as an infallible principle: Est natura hominum nouitatis auida.

Planethomachia.

Mars.

Well sayd Venus: let Iupiter put that in his eye he hath got by thine aunswere: for Lunas despightfull inconstancie hath made poore Luno were the horne in her Crest, & the Cuckowe in her Shield, yea, and caused Iupiter himselfe to bee thought lesse honest then men, and too dishonest to be a God.

Luna.

Was it Lunas inconstancie (good sir) that caused Psamnetichus to dote in the loue of a common Strumpet? Or came it by my influence that Philarches was tickled with such incestuous lust towards his mother in lawe Rhodope? Doe inconstancie goe before choyce, or chaūge before affection? Tush Mars, were you not afraide that if you spoke troth, Venus would take the toye and put you out of Commons, you would not bee of this minde: but I beare with you more then either Vulcan can or will.

Saturne.

Luna, thou hast touch Mars at the quicke: for in deede he is so pinde to Venus sleeue, that although he rage and raile, yea, and say more then he knowes against all the Gods, yet he dare not say what he think if Venus hold vp her finger. But I marueil greatly that Mercurie is so silent: surely I commend him he loues not to wrangle in a wrong cause.

Mercurie.

I am glad you are so pleasaunt Saturne, but you mistake my meaning: for when Venus and Mars hit the naile on the head by attributing Psamnetichus & Philarches miseries to Lunas inconstaunt influence, I confirmed their censure by silence: for you knowe, Qui tacet consentire videtur.

Soll.

Soll.

What needs these crosse blowes in so plaine a case, it is euident by the sequell of Saturnes tragedie, that loue bringeth with it many enemities, breeding in olde age doating affections, in yong yeares wanton & lasciuious thoughts, inchaunting the minds of men with such vnbridled affections, as neither wisedome nor reason can restraine. Some by loue are brought from prosperitie to mishap: Others from dignities to discredite: all gaine losse: Some fading pleasures, but none in the ende perpetuall quiet. Whereof I inferre, that those haplesse euents which chaūced to Psamnetichus, Philarches, and Rhodope, was through the bitter delights of wanton Venus.

Iupiter.

Soll, thou art worthie to giue Oracles, sith thy censure is yeelded without parcialitie: but because Mars standeth so stifly in defence of Venus, I will first make a description of the essentiall nature of Mars, then shewe what tragicall mishaps proceede by his bloodie influence.

Soll.

Wee are content Iupiter (I aunswere for all) your paine shalbe to rehearse the euents, and we to attend with silence.

Iupiters Astronomicall de-
scription of Mars.

The Grecians (right mightie gods) do make manifest euen by the Epitheton which they attribute to the Starre of Mars, πύροεις, that it is of a fierie and inflamed nature, annexed with such burning heate and hurtfull intemperancie, stir-

ring in mens bodies such hotte and adust choller, and infusing qualities together with his irradiation, more apt to destroy, then to ingender or nourish. Which the auncient Astrologers haue noted in terming Mars ἄρης: απο τȣ ἀναιρεῖν of infecting or corrupting one as Phurnitus affirmeth, απο τȣ ἄρῆς, of losse and mishappe. Therefore Galen and Ptolomey do iudge him aswell or rather more, then Saturne to be an infortunate and vnluckie Planet, since by his intemperate heate he doth burne and inflame, breeding such aboundaunce of yelowe and adust choller: that thereof doe spring many enormities, aswell to the minde as to the body. For by the intemperate heate and vehement motion of choller: doe proceede innumerable perturbations, whereof doe ensue violent actions, and inconsiderat affections, and passions, as brawlings, contentions, murthers, warres, and such like: so that the Poets fitly haue figured Mars to be the God of warres, and Bellona to be his sister. But leauing them to their fictions: let vs see what can proceed of immoderate heate but cholericke inflammations, which are apt to burne, drie, and consume: procuring haplesse and daungerous passions: which Ptolomey in his first Booke Apotellesmaton, noteth in these words. Martis stella & arefacit, & vrit sicut congruit igneo ipsius calori, & solis vicinitati vt qui illius spheræ subiectus sic. And for this cause as I coniecture, the auncient Astrologers haue denied Mars for his appropriate malice, to chalenge any of the faculties Animall, as also they haue done to Saturne: yet of those which are naturall, they haue graunted him the facultie attractiue: of the inward parts he hath the liuer, or rather the bladder, wherein the gall lyeth: which the Grecians call κόστιν χολήδοχον: the Latins, Bilis folliculum: or rather Biliosi humoris armariolũ. And thus much briefly for the Astronomicall description of Mars: Now as touching the disposition of the Martialistes.

They are commonly ouer rash, not fearing to rush through sword and fire: seeking to mooue immoueable things: carying a head without a braine: impatient in iniuries: doing al things

with

with preposterous aduise: beeing variable in their purposes: prodigall of their owne, and desirous of other mens: enterprising great matters: making of loathsome Sinckes lofty Towers: lifting vp their browes euery where: touching the heauen with their fingers, and speaking tragically as Gyants: wearing Haye in their hornes, and mingling the heauens with the earth: hauing their feathers farre bigger then their neasts: carping Waines loden with reprochfull slaunder: wearing Nettles in their nose, and whetting their teeth vpon bitter Sorrell: Inraged as though they were stung with a Brese, and more imperious then Phalaris: As cruell to them which yeeld as Wolues: giuing to those which runne a spurre: wearing a bodie without a breast: whetting Iron with Iron, and putting fire to towe: quenching flames with Dyes: bearing gall in their mouth, fire in their hearts, & cutting large thongs out of other mens leather.

As touching the diseases incident to Martialistes, they be Tertian feuers, Iaundice, Phrensies, hot Agewes, Inflammations, Bloodie flix, Megrimes, hotnesse of Urine, and such like, which commonly proceede of the quantitie or qualitie of yellowe choller abounding: of aduston of blood, of fierie and chollericke euaporations. Further, they which participate of the nature of Mars, haue their pulses great and swift: Urine yellowe, fierie, and biting: sweate sharpe, salt and bitter: deiections yellow: the tongue commonly drie: their dreames of fire, burning, slaughters, strife, warres, armours, and such like. Thus I haue described Mars his maligne disposition, and meane to confirme my sayinges with a tragicall historie.

Iupiters Tragedie.

IN those daies when taking the shape of a man, I visited the poore house of Philemon and Baucis, coasting diuers Countries, happely I arriued in Scithia, whereof after Tomyris was Queene: beeing nighted in those partes, I chaunced on a fayre and sumptuous Pallace, scituated hard by the Sea side: comming to the gates I found the wicket open, whereon was ingrauen this Posie (Enteraunce is denied to none.) Seing such a free passage, I passed through the base Court & came into ỳ Hall: where I found a yong and beautifull Ladie, accompanied with sixe Damosells, all ouergrowne with griefe, doing Sacrifice (as I thought) to some of the Gods: but drawing more nye, I espied the Ladie (which by her porte seemed to be Mistresse to them all) burning Frankensence vpon Coales, and holding the heart of a man in her hand, she violently stabd it through in many places: which whē she had done, two of her Maides presented vnto her two dead mens skulles full of wine: whereof when she had drunke a litele of either, gushing forth aboundaunce of teares, she called for a Lute: whereon she plaide and warbled out this wofull dittie.

What more mishap can fret the minde,
then wish each day to dye:
And yet to liue in lingring greefe
alas, such life leade I.
Whose life, if life, thrise worse then death
is fraught with such annoy:
As pinde with care can neuer taste
one dram of happie ioy.

I rue

Frue to see that most I wish,
most hatefull wordes I blenge:
My surest ioye to weepe my fill,
my greatest wealth reuenge.
Thus doe I leade a hapleſſe fatè,
Content with woe: enricht with hate.

Assone as she had ended this mornefull Madrigale, she gaue the Lute to one of her Maides, and the rest ready to depart: but casting her eye aside she espied me: wherewith she came pacing toward the place where I stoode, and with a courteous and princely countenaunce she gaue me a friendly welcome: and taking mee by the hande led mee into her bed chamber, where supper was alreadie prouided: after we had taken our repast, I desirous to knowe the straunge maner of her Sacrifice, made request to know the cause of her continuall sorrow: what both the pearcing of the heart, and the drinking of the dead mens skulles did meane. She nothing coy to condiscend to a straungers intreatie, began her talke in this maner.

Iupiter.

In this Countrie of Scithia there raigned a King not long since called Euandrus, who by his naturall inclination was wholy addicted vnto martiall prowesse, taking such delight in bloodie wars and cruell Skirmishes, as he thought himselfe vnfortunate, when either his enimies for feare, or he for want of some iust occasion, was driuen to liue in vnwillingquiet. This Euãdrus had such happy successe in his attempts, as by his valour & courage, he had made a conquest of all the kingdoms adiacent to his dominions, Libia onely excepted, which was posſed by a cruell & mercilesse Tyrant named Charaxes, who seeing that fortune without any checke, had long time fauoured Euandrus: thought, that after great calmes, would ensue little stormes, that low ebbes followed hie tydes, & that fortune, after so many sweete fauours, could not but shewe some sower frownes: whereupon he leuied a mightie Hoast, and made a

suddayne

ſuddayne inuaſion into the borders of Scithia, burning and ſpoyling all the countrey, thinking by his deſperate attempt, to make the king ſhrinke and ſeeke for Truce. But the euent fell out contrarie to his expectation. For Euandrus hearing howe Charaxes had attempted the Conqueſt of his Countrie, gathered a greate Armie, to the number of a hundreth and fiftie thouſand Footemen, and fower thouſand Horſemen, manfully marching forwarde, to defend his Countrie, and withſtand the force of his iniurius enemie. Wherein Fortune not willing at this time to giue him the foyle, ſhewed him ſuch accuſtomed fauour, that he valiantly diſcomfited Charaxes and all his Hoſte, yea and tooke the King himſelf priſoner: retourning into Scythia with ſuch triumphes, that his ſubiects had both cauſe to feare and honour ſuch a King. Charaxes being thus brought priſoner into Scythia: Euandrus as he was fortunate in obtayning the conqueſt: ſo he was fauourable in vſing the victories, thinking it as Kingly to pardon: as to conquer, and as great renowne to be gotten by ſhewing mercie to profeſſed foes, as curteſie to aſſured frends: For he intreated not Charaxes as a wretched Captiue, but as a worthy Prince, entertaining him with ſuch frendly familiaritie, as the Lybians had great cauſe to extoll his clemencie. Euandrus bathing thus in the ſtreames of bliſſe, ſitting firmely on ẏ fickle cop of proſperity, had ẏ check giuẽ him by fortune on this wiſe.

Hee had by his wife which was the lately deceaſed, three Children, two were ſonnes, borne twinnes at one inſtant, and in ſuch a moment, that it was almoſt hard to geſſe, which was ẏ eldeſt, the one was called Freſnitus, ẏ other Rhomphanus, his daughter named Lyndana, a Ladie of ſuch exquiſite perfection and ſinguler beautie, that ſhe ſtayned not onely in thoſe dayes, the fayreſt dames of Scythia, but almoſt of all the world. This Lyndana, ſeeing that there had bene a perpetuall enmitie betweene her father and the predeceſſors of Charaxes: and that it was not yet extinguiſhed in the Sonne, grudging not onely, that contrarie to his deſart, he was intreated ſo courteouſly

oully: but sorrowed that it was not in her power with rigour to reuenge his presumptuous attempt. Yet thinking to play a womans part: she detested him with a secret and deadly hate. But Charaxes contrariwise resembled the Beares, which looking and smelling along while at the hearbe Moli, at the last eateth it, and is poysoned: so he gazing on the singular perfection of Lyndana, was sodainly stroken with the sight of her beautie, and so snared with the due consideration of her vertuous qualitie, that he remained farre more perplexed, by being a captiue vnto Lyndana, then that he was vanquished by Euandrus. For hee doubted not of the ones assured courtesie: but greatly feared the others halfe suspected crueltie, he thought the king was to be perswaded by reason, in that he was a man. The princesse hee knewe was a woman, and therefore led by vnbridled rage of froward wilfulnesse, either flaming into much loue, by no counsayles to bee quenched, or freesing into great hate, by no prayers to be kindled. Therfore these contrarieties greatly daunted the mind of Charaxes, and draue him into such doubtfull passions, that at last he fell into these bitter complaintes.

Charaxes, thou seest now by experience, that hapelesse fortune knoweth no meane, but either she straineth her strings so hie that they cracke, or els lets them so, that they will giue no sound, either flourishing her counterfaits with such fresh coulers as dimme the sight, or tricking them vp with such darke shadowes as cannot bee seene, lifting vp some to the Skies with sweete and inconstant fauours, and driuing some lower then hell, with bitter and assured frownes. Happie, yea thrise happy are they whose estate is so tempered by the Starres, that they they may both despight and despise this vniust and deceiptfull goddesse. It had bene better for thee Charaxes to haue died by the Sword in the Field, and haue gayned glorie, then perish by loue in the chamber, and reape discredit. Ah Lyndana, thy beautie hath so bewitched my sences, and inchaunted my affections, as no meanes but thy sweete consent, can expresse my

hapleſſe paſſions. O deſpitefull Fortune, was it not ſufficient to vſe mee as thy captiue, but to make mee a ſeruile ſlaue vnto loue, who ruleth her ſubiects, not with reaſon, but with rigour: and being lawleſſe rageth ouer them without law: what Charaxes, doeſt thou count it ſlauerie to ſerue ſo braue a dame as Lyndana, whoſe inward vertues and outward perfection is ſuch, as ſhe deſerues to be a mate for the moſt famous Prince of the world: yet in loue, whatſoeuer the lucke bee, there is no gaines but loſſe: yeelding a pleaſure mixed with bitter paſſions, and a miſerie tẽpered with a fewe momentarie delights, breeding a fading content to ſome, but at laſt a perpetuall miſlike to al. Why Charaxes, if thou doeſt ſorrowe at thy chaſice, ſeeke to eſchewe the charme: If thou feareſt to perriſhe by hearing the Syrens ſing, ſtop thine eares againſt their melodie: Or play like Eagles, which ſurfeting on Spices, bite vpon the blades of Hemlocke: Or as the Inhabitants of Tryca, who when they haue cloyed their ſtomacks with eating ſweete Dates, purge themſelues with feeding on ſtinking Garlicke. So, if thou art ſnared with beholding the vertues of Lyndana, free thy ſelf by conſidering her vanities. She is beautifull, yea, but thine enemie, & one that ſeeketh to deſpight thee with a ſecrete hate, the daughter of him, who with a flattering courteſie couets perhaps to breed at laſt thy bane and miſerie. Tuſh Charaxes, if thou ſeekeſt by counſayle to cure loue, thou ſhalt as much preuaile, as he that goeth about to binde the winde in fetters of Silke. Thou loueſt Lyndana, ſeeke then to enioye her loue, vnleſſe if thou ſtriue againſt loue, thou perriſh in ſeeking after loue. She is a woman, and therefore to bee wonne, thou haſt time, place, and opportunitie: deſpiſe not then fortunes fauours, leaſt if by delay, the graſſe be cut from vnder thy feete thou repent, when had I wiſt ſhall come to late.

Charaxes hauing vttered theſe wordes, felt his new gall to growe to a greater griefe, and that the continuall preſence of Lyndana ſo perplexed him, as he pined with reſtleſſe paſſions: Sometimes daunted with feare: now incenſed with hope, preſently

ſently truſting to obtaine if he did ſue: and then diſpayring to ſeeke leaſt he ſhould not obtaine: toſſed a long time with theſe contrarie thoughts, at laſt he determined to giue the aſſault whatſoeuer his chaunce were. Well, fortune intending to further him in his purpoſe, brought it ſo to paſſe, that within a few daies he went to recreate himſelf in the Garden, where he eſpid Lyndana walking ſolitarilie in an Arbor of Iuniper, whom after he had ſaluted with a ſubmiſſe courteſie, he intertained in theſe tearmes.

Lyndana, I cannot but maruell what delight you take in theſe ſolitarie dumpes, vnleſſe either you make this Arbor a place for your priuate prayer, or els your head be troubled with ſome louing paſſions: if I geſſe right at the firſt I were loath to hinder your deuotion: if at the laſt I am glad my companie ſhall cut of your muſing fancies.

Lyndana frowning at this hap to bee troubled with ſuch an vnwelcommed gueſt, calling a coy looke on her newe Louer, made him this ſhort and ſharpe aunſwere.

Sir, if you maruell at my dumpes, I cannot but muſe at your raſh coniectures, that either deuotion or loue muſt breede ſolitarineſſe: but I thinke your Logike is aſmuch as my Latin, and then no maruell you make ſuch ſimple diſtinctions. Well, admit I were at my prayers, you are not the Sainct to whom I meane to make my petitions: and if I be in loue, take no thought, your mothers ſonne may take his chaunce for all my choyce.

Charaxes hearing Lyndanas ſharpe replie, had a helpe caſt in his way for heauing it any more at Mawe: ſo that he ſtoode nipped on the pate with this new ſpeech, as if he had with Meduſas preſence bene turned into a Marble picture: which Lyndana eſpying, ſhe began to laugh not at his preſent follie, but as ſhe thaught at his enſuing miſerie: hoping that if he were intangled with her beautie, and that he were ſnared with the due conſideration of her excellent proportion, then ſhe might haue time to ſhewe how ſhe deſired both to hate and reuenge.

Charaxes as thus, he for feare and she for disdaine, ceased to passe away the time in any familiar conference, there came into the Garden her Brethren Frestinus and Romphanus: who saluting Charaxes very friendly, spent the morning while dinner time in diuers kinde of exercise: wherein Charaxes was very actiue, as one framed by nature wholy to Mars and Martiall exploites. Well, the tables being couered, the King commaunded these three companions to be sent for: who with humble obeysaunce sitting downe at the table tooke their repast: but onely Charaxes whose sorrowe and grieke was such, as he could not but chewe vpon his raging choller, and feede vpon gall & melancholie flattering: Loue perswading him to march on for all the first repulse and hatefull disdaine, willing him to retyre before any stroake were strooke, so might he though he obtained no conquest, yet not with disgrace loose the fielde. Troubled with these diuers doubts, assone as dinner was ended, he got him into his Chamber, where being alone by himself, he began to consider the crooked disposition of Lyndana, and her froward crabbednesse, in crossing him cõtinually with despightfull ouerthwarts: how for desire she requited him with disdaine: and for loue with hate: that although being a prisoner he was courteously intertained by Euandrus, yet the vndeserued crueltie of Lyndana was such a hell to his conscience, as he would not liue long in such seruile subiection. Whereupon, he began to feare that the familiar friendship of the King was but a cloake to couer his reuenging minde, and that no doubt for all his flatterie he ment to preuent him by vntimely death: so that he determined to seeke al meanes possible to escape into his owne Countrie: in which determination fortune furthered him in this wise. It so fell out that the King who greatly delighted in chasing of the wild Boze, went on a time to see some sporte into a Forrest, not farre off from his Pallace, onely accompanied with Charaxes, Frestynus, Romphanus, & three of his Gentlemen: they had not long beaten vp and downe the Forrest, but they rowsed a mightie great Boze so huge and monstrous,

mouſtrous, as it halfe amazed the King to ſee the bigneſſe, and ſo ſtout in courage, as he would not flee one foote from the Dogges, but held them all at a bay, hurting diuers of them very ſore: whereat the King ſomewhat chafed, pricking his horſe and charging his ſpeare ranne furiouſly vpon him and hit the Boare vpon the ſhoulder, yet pearcing him very little, but the Beaſt afraide with the ſtroke, fled, and the Dogs after in chaſe, euery mã preaſing to be foremoſt to haue moſt vew of the ſport, galloping through the thickets ſo faſt, that within two or three howers al the companie was diſſeuered, none remayning with the King but onely Charaxes: who ſeeing that now he might haue occaſion to drawe himſelf out of the Kings daunger, began diuerſly to coniecture with himſelfe what he ſhould doe. Firſt he conſidered with himſelfe the great courteſie of Euandrus in vſing the victorie, that whereas with rigour he might haue reuenged the burning of his Borders, yet ouercome with clemencie he forgot al ſuch iniuries, and intertayned him with moſt frendly familiaritie: that being taken priſoner, he did not vſe him as a captiue, but graunted him the libertie of a King. Theſe things mooued Charaxes not ſo much as in thought to giue any offence to his highneſſe, thinking that if he ſhould reward the courteſie of the King with trecherie, not onely his enemies but euen his very friendes and ſubiects would deſpiſe him as an vnthankfull perſon. But as he was thus vertuouſly perſwaded by the good inclination of his minde, ſo he was inforced by a ſecrete rancour to imagine, that to bee captiue in fetters of golde, was to liue in a gliſtering miſerie: ſo that he thought no meanes howſoeuer vnlawfull it was to be neglected, for the recouering of his former freedome: which helliſh thought ouercomming his former intent, drawe him into ſuch a deſperate minde, that ſeeing the King ride before him, he charged his Bore ſpeare, and came thundring ſo faſt vpon Euandrus, that before he could turne his horſe he runne him quite through, and threw him out of the ſaddle dead vpon the ground: when he had committed this hainous and bloudy fact, drawing

the King into a thicket, he spurred his horse and coasted out of the Forrest, and with as much speede as might bee fled out of the confines of Scithia, and so secretly and safely within short space arriued in Libia. But leauing Charaxes to his good lucke, againe to Frestynus and Romphanus, who with great sport so hotly pursued the Boze, that within three or fower howers they killed him, and sent him to the Court by two of the Gentlemen there present: which done, missing the King their father, they straight thrust into the thicke of the Forrest to goe seeke him: but coasting and coursing through ech holt & lawne, finde him they could not: yet not leauing of to hallowe and to blowe their hornes, but they could not heare any replye, except the chatting Eccho, who alwaies returned them the last ende of their measures. At last, Rhomphanus began to perswade his brother Frestynus, that no doubt the King & Charaxes were gone to the Court: vpon which perswasion they both went home: where they no soner arriued, but they met their sister Lyndana, who asked where her father was: Is not the King then (quoth Frestynus) come home, we haue this day beene hunting the Boze, and in the middest of our chase we lost the sight of the King and Charaxes, whom since wee could neuer see nor heare. Pray God (quoth Lyndana) that Libian traitor hath not by any sinister meanes procured his mishap. This sodaine motion so troubled the minds of the two Princes, that they were perplexed with diuers passions, fearing that which afterward to their great mishap proued but too true. Whereupon they caused a troupe of Gentlemen to goe in quest of the King, and they two accompaning the rest came to the Forrest, where euery man as loue and duetie bound them did their indeuour to be the first that should finde out their leage and Soueraigne: But Fortune willing to shewe her dismall despight brought it so to passe, that after a long time they had laboured in vaine, Romphanus happened to passe by that thicket wherein the King lay dead, and casting his eye aside, espied a dead corps all welltered and bathed in blood: which hapelesse sight so

amazed

amazed Romphanus minde, that daunted with the terrour of such a fearful spectacle, he had not the power to alight from his horse to looke who it should be that was so cruelly murthered, but stood still gazing as one in a traunce, til one of the Gentlemen came by: who seing Romphanus so amazed, and espying the dead body, alighted, and perceiued straight it was their King and soueraigne Euandrus: then gushing forth streames of teares he wailed and wrong his hands, cursing and accusing that day as most dismall and infortunate. Romphanus seeing that it was his father, fell from his horse in a paſme, and was hardly recouered by the Gentlemen: yet at last comming to himself, pulling out the Boze speare (for as yet it remained in the wound) he would haue ended his daies with violent death, as meanes to cure his vnspeakable greefe, had he not bene hindered by him that was present, who perswaded him with friendly aduise to despight fortune with patience, and in extreame mishaps to make a vertue of necessitie: but he talked to ỹ wind and playde with Orpheus to the senceleſſe stones, for Romphanus could no way be pacified, but still raged and rayled against the cruell destinies, who by their rigorous doomes had appointed his father such a vilde and hapleſſe death: As thus he was weating his fathers corpes with teares came his brother Frestynus, who seeing this monstrous Massacre, was no lesse payned with pinching greefe then Romphanus: yet such was his inward sorrowe as he could not shed one teare, but sitting downe by his father taking the Boze speare in his hand, vttered these wofull wordes.

O hapleſſe and thrise accursed fortune, who annointest the Cradle with Hony, and rubbest the Sadle with Gall, who if thou sportest with youth, alwaies despightest age, who pamprest at the first with sweete pleasures: and poysonest at the last with bitter mishaps: was there no meanes to reuenge, but by death: no frownes but balefull blowes: no thing to glut thee withall but my Fathers bloud. Ah nowe I see, and I sorrowe and sigh to see, that where thou fauourest much, there thou flat-

terest

terest most, that thy painted caskes are filled with sower wine: that when thou cariest in the backe of thy hand a Lambe: thou hydest in the palme a Tiger, vnhappie are they that find thee most fortunate, because in thy greatest glorie, lyes closed vp most balefull miserie. Oh Euandrus, was Cæsar more fortunate then thou in thy life, or could he be more infortunate at his death, he triumphing for his victories, and thou inuincible for thy conquestes: he slaine by his supposed friends, and thou by thy reconciled foes, both aduaunced by fortune as a flattring goddesse, & both by her driuen to mishap as a mercilesse furie. Happie, yea thrise happie then are they who despise Fortune, for that they are to low for Fortune. The highest Cædars haue the greatest falles, the tallest Reedes are most shaken with the wind: Low shrubbes withstand great tempests, and litle Minnowes may safely swimme through the fishers net. Irus feared not to drinke of euery dish, but Alexander was poysoned in his owne cuppe: Content is great riches, and patient pouertie is the enemy to fortune. Honour is the first steppe to disquiet, and dominion is fettered with enuie: Glorie gapeth at mistrust, and Kings are Fortunes bondslaues. More happy then had Euandrus bene, if he had enioyed a poore life with prosperitie, then a Princes state with such dyrefull miserie. But alas, what auaileth it to condemne Fortune, when she triumpheth in our bitter curses. It is for me with patience to despight that iniurious goddesse, and with rigour to reuenge that trecherous traytor Charaxes, who most vilanously hath betrayed his assured friend. And with that such was his griefe, as he was not able to vtter any more wordes, but at last, seeing his brother Romphanus so impatient in his passiõs, dissembling as much as he could his outwarde sorrowe, began with counsaile to appease his complaintes, and to comfort him in that case, wherein he himselfe needed a medicine: Yet somewhat saluing his brothers sore, they left of their dollor, and taking vp the king, caried him home to ẏ Court, at which sight, both the Nobles & Commons cried out for the losse of their Soueraigne. But

Lyndana

Lyndana as one halfe Lunaticke or inraged with some hellish furie, fell into such franticke passions, that her sorrow could by no meanes be appeased: For womens sorrowes are either to extreme, not to be redressed, or els tricked vp with dissimulation not to be beleeued. The comfortable counsayles of her brother could not preuaile: the perswasions of her Ladies and gentlewomen were in vaine, so that she went to her bed, where wearied with wayling teares: griefe and watching so weakened her wittes, that she fel almost into a frenzie. But Frestinus saluing his care, with patience, prouided a rich and sumptuous Tõbe for his fathers corps, inriching his funerals with such magnificent prouision necessarie for the entombing of such a potentate, as all the subiectes sorrowing for the losse of their King, yet reioyced that they should bee gouerned with a Prince of such vertuous & naturall disposition. Frestinus carefull that nothing should want to the beautifying of the Tombe, caused an Epitaphe to be ingrauen in a Marble Piller, wherin stoode a King all armed in rich Plate, holding in the right hand a Diademe beset with precious stones, whereat hanged a great Globe of Leade, fastened with a very smal wyre: round about the Globe was written this Poesie.

Ad Astra honor. Ad orcum miseria.

In the other hand he held a Ladie blinded with a vale, which stoode vpon a round Bowle, with smiling and delightful countenaunce, putting with her right hand a flower to his Nose, and with her left striking him into the backe with an Arrowe, on her brest was written this Poesie.

Fauere videor: nocere sentior.

In the midst of this Marble Piller did hang a Table, wherin was curiously ingrauen this Epitaphe.

HEre lyes in Tombe a peereleſſe King,
by fortune plaſte in happy ſtate:

Who neuer felt the ſting of dyer miſhap,
but triumpht ſtill ſecure by fate.
In honour, wealth, and conqueſt ſuch,
as enuie feard at him to grutch.
But fortune by in conſtant ſpight,
repayd at laſt his ioyes with payne:
For by miſhap this peereleſſe Prince,
was by a trayterous Caitiffe ſlayne.
Then truſt not fortune when ſhe ſmyle,
for then ſhe workes moſt ſpightfull guyle.

Well, the Funeralles being moſt richly and ſumptuouſly finiſhed, after a fewe daies were paſt in bewayling Euandrus death, Freſtynus ſommoned a Parliament, vnto which all the Nobilitie with certaine of the Commons elected generally repayred: wherein as eldeſt ſonne and heire apparent, he was by the common conſent of them all rightly crowned King of Scythia. This thing with others concluded, the day of his Coronation being come according to the cuſtome of ỹ Countrie, the Dyadem was ſet on his head, to the great ioye of al his ſubiects, who ſhewed their ductifull good will and obedyence in appointing Juſtes & Turneyes, in making rare and ſtraunge ſhewes, perfozmed with ſuch coſt and diligence, as it bred a great content to all men. But Romphanus, whoſe heart was puffed vp with a greedie deſire of glozie, thought he was not borne to bee a ſubiect, but a ſoueraigne, and that ſince it was hard to iudge by the momentarie ſpace of their birth whether was the eldeſt, he was hardly dealt withall, that he was not either elected King, oz els at the leaſt had the kingdome deuided betwixt them. This motion greatly troubled the minde of Romphanus, yet he a long while ſmothered this aſpyzing enuie

tie, till he might finde some iust occasion to vtter his cankered stomacke, and aswell as the rest shewed the loue of a Brother and the duetie of a Subiect, till it fell out by the despightfull meanes of fortune, that a certaine Lord in Scythia called Pasquino, being somewhat hardly dealt withall by Frestynus (for in deede he was somewhat tyrannous to his subiects) made a Mutinie, and raysed an Insurrection against the King, gathering a great Host, which grewe in short time to a huge multitude, because Romphanus taking time least the grasse might be cut from vnder his feete, ioyned himselfe with Pasquino, so that their two powers being vnited was of great force. Frestynus troubled with this sodaine tumult, hearing that his Brother Romphanus was ioyned to the Rebelles, was greatly greeued: yet no whit dismaying himselfe leuied a mightie armie, and marched towardes the Campe where the Duke Pasquino and his brother lay: they hearing of the kinges power, and vnderstanding by a Herrait, that the next day they must either flee or giue him battell, set their Soldiours in good aray, and went into the fielde: where when the Armies were almost ready to meete, Romphanus began to exhort his Soldiours to consider what they had taken in hande, that they were to fight against Frestynus their King, who had not gouerned them with mercie but with rigour, whose will in all actions was a lawe, to whom if now they should yeeld, he would not take pittie of them as a louing Soueraigne, but torment them as a cruel Tyrant, that they were to fight for their freedome and libertie, their landes, children and wiues: how it was not vpon the part of a Subiect they did rise, but for one to whom of right the Croune did belong, who if he should obtaine the victorie, would reward them with present coyne and ensuing fauour and courtesie: With these and such like perswasions he incouraged his Soldiours, and so animated them with feare and hope, that as it were in a desperate minde they ranne vpon their enemies, and after a sore and daungerous battell, many being slaine of either part, Frestynus was put to flight and hardly escaped

with his owne life: yet by the swiftnesse of his horse he secretly fled into the Countrie, where for a time he lurked in diuers places, till at last fearing his Brothers furie he coasted ouer into Libia. Romphanus in the meane time hauing obtayned the Conquest, thought now with Cæsar, if he could not settle him selfe by right, to place himself with force and rigour: therefore he first cut of all those of the Nobilitie which he knew were his Brothers familiares, and placed in their Offices his chiefest friendes: Then sommoning a Parliament, was straight elected and crowned King. Safely and securely settled thus in his Kingdome, he little feared or thought of his Brother Frestynus: who lying vnknowne in the Borders of Libia, hearing what was done by Romphanus, thought rather to offer his Kingdome to his enemie Charaxes, then put vp his Brothers trecherous iniuries. Whereupon he presently went to Charaxes, who seeing Frestynus in such estate, was greatly amazed: yet he most courteously and kingly imbraced him, and demaunded the cause of his so straunge and vnlookt for arriuall. Frestynus vnfolded vnto him the cause of his comming, how Romphanus his brother had seditiously driuen him out of his Kingdome and Countrie, and possessed himself of the Crowne and Diadem, and that if it pleased him to take the matter in hand, and by force repossesse him of his Dominions, he would acknowledge himself his Subiect and pay him yerely tribute. Charaxes seeing the way layd open before him to enioye the Kingdome of Scythia, made answere to Frestynus, that he would for his sake giue Romphanus such a breakfast, as he should neuer be able to disgest it, bidding him be of good chere, for what he had promised he would with all speede performe. Upon this Frestynus rested, & Charaxes simpling in his sleeue mustered all Libia, and gathered a mightie Host of good and valiaunt Soldiours, furnishing them with such Armour, and his Camp with such warlike Artillarie and Munition, as was able to affray the greatest Prince in those parts. Being thus mouted, he protracted no time but passed into Scythia, where he

he raced downe diuers Townes which withstood him, putting all to the edge of the sword that obeyed not to the Herralt sent vnder the name of their lawfull King Frestynus. This bloudy inuasion terrified so the Scythians, that he quietly passed thorowe a great part of the Countrie without any skirmish, but at last Romphanus met him with a great power and ioyned battell: betweene whom was a daungerous and cruell conflict: the Scythians fearing the tyrannie of Frestynus & Charaxes, and the Libians hoping for no mercie if they remayned vanquished: The combat continuing still doubtfull, till the two Brothers Romphanus and Frestynus met, betweene whom there was a mortall combat: at last Frestynus feeling himselfe in some perril, redoubled his strength and slewe Romphanus: who no sooner was dead but his Soldiours began to faint and to flee: whereupon the Libians pursued them so fast, that they made a monstrous massacre, leauing of all the Armie fewe or none aliue. Constrayned at last by the approching of the night to retyre: the Libians went home to their Tents with great ioye and triumph: Amongst whom went Frestynus as a worthie Conquerour, ioyfull for so happie a Conquest. Well, the Soldiours banquetting and making chere for their good successe: Charaxes & Frestynus supped together as good frends, and departed not whyle late in the night. But vpon the next morning Charaxes being earely vp, came into Frestynus tent, accompanied with diuers of his Nobles, whom he found fast a sleepe in his bed, and drawing out his arming sworde, without respecting either law of God or man smot of his head, leaving the body weltring in his bloud: which when he had done, he called straight for a Herralt at Armes, and taking the heads of the two Brothers, sent them speedilie to the Ladie Lyndana, with a Letter to this effect.

Iupiters Tragedie.

Charaxes of Libia to the Scithian Princesse Lyndana, graunteth life.

AS it is valour Lyndana to conquer: so it is wisedome to vse the victorie, tis better rigourously to retourne with triumphe: then to be thought courteous and lose the conquest. If thy father Euandrus had knowen aswell howe to haue vsed the Sword in Peace as in Warre, his vntymely death had beene forseene: and thy brothers miseries preuented: but his mishap hath bid mee to beware: and rather to strike with the Sword then be beaten with the Scaberd. Thy brothers are both slain: if my word can carry no credit, let their heads which I haue sent bee the witnesse to my speaches. My power and force is such, that I can farre more easely subdue Scythia, then thou art able to defend. My counsaile willeth me to take away thy life: least hereafter it procure my losse, yet lest thou shouldest thincke I euer loued to hate, I will continue my former good will, for such continually hath bene the affection that I haue borne towards thee: Yea thy beautie hath so fettered my freedome, and thy singular perfection hath so battered the Bulwarke of my breast, as no perswasion is able to dissuade me from thy loue. Consider Lyndana, I may commaund thee by force, and yet I intreate thee by prayers: for that I know constrained fancie is like to the Lute string, which stretched to hye cracketh before it giueth any sound. Sith then Lyndana, thy beautie hath inchaunted my affections, and bewitched my senses, yeeld to graunt loue for loue, and become my Concubine, so shalt thou enioy a trustie louer, and saue thine owne life, otherwise, if through froward wilfulnesse thou deny my request, thou art like to end thy dayes in endlesse miserie.

Thyne as thou vsest him
Charaxes of Lybia.

The

THe Herault taking the heads and the Letter, went with all speede to Syraaca, the cheefe Citie of Scithia, where being admitted to the presence of Lyndana, hee first requested her on his knee, that although hee brought his message from a most mercilesse Tyraunt, yet it would please her grace to pardon him as a seruant, and with that presented the heades and the Letter. This strange sight strooke such a desire to reuenge, into the heart of Lyndana, that as one nothing amazed, she tooke her brothers heades and kissed them, and without chaunging countenaunce or letting fall one teare, deliuered them to one of her Ladies, and then opening the Letter read the contents, which after she had throughly perused, she put in her Pocket, and tould the Herault that he should not onely haue an answere, but also retourne without harme, charging her seruants with great courtesie to entertaine him. This straunge demeanour of Lyndana, maue the Heralt into a great maze, that such a Princely valour should bee shrowded vnder so beautifull a creature. Well, Lyndana withdrawing her selfe into her Chamber, tooke Penne and Incke and returned him this aunswere.

Lyndana of Scithia to the Tyrant Charaxes disdaine.

CHaraxes, if thy fortune were not better then thy valour, or thy trecherie more then thy courage, my Fathers mishap had beene lesse, and thy misfortune more. But such is thy vilanous mynd, as like the Bastard Wolues of Syria, thou sparest not to pray on dead Carion. Thou reprouest my Father for vsing the victorie, and thy reproch consisteth in thy Conquestes. For thy iustice is tyrannie, and thy martiall prowesse rechlesse treason. Thou hast slaine my Father and murthered my two brethren, and what glorie shalt thou gaine but infamie and discredit:

credit: yet the gods haue ſpared my life, that I may reuenge thy loathſome diſcourteſie. Vilde coward, doeſt thou thinke to conquer Scithia, no no, vnleſſe my quarel were worſe, or thy courage better, thou ſhalt knowe and finde I will plague thy trecherous crueltie with moſt deſpitefull miſerie. Thou haſt ſent me my brother heades, but I hope ſhortly to pull out thy heart: which ſhall gaine me honour, for diſpatching ſuch a traitour. Doe thy Counſaile wiſh thee to take my life, no doubt hardie men: that will beate them which are abſent. But thy loue and affection is ſuch: as no meanes but death can hinder thy fancie. Trueth thou art like vnto them, which liking the fruit, cut downe the tree, and which louing the Egs, killeth the foule. But would to God thou wert in loue, and that thy deſire were as great as my diſdaine: then falſe Traitour ſhouldeſt thou knowe with what liking I would requite thy loue. But diſdayning to write vnto ſo vile a wretch, I defie thy force, and proteſt I liue to hate, and hope to reuenge.

Thy proteſted foe *Lyndana*,
Princeſſe of *Scythia*.

THE Herralt hauing receiued the Letters, haſted back againe to the Campe: where being ariued, he deliuered them to Charaxes: who vnripping the Seales, found how little Lyndana either paſſed for his loue or threats. Whereupon, falling from deſire to diſdaine, and from loue to hate, he made a ſollempne proteſtation to race the walles of Syranca, within two daies to ſpare neither olde nor yong: and as for Lyndana, no torture ſhould bee ſufficient to requite her crueltie. Herevpon he marched forward with his Hoaſt toward the Citie, and within two daies incamped about it, laying ſiege very nye to the walles, and on the next morrowe with battering Peeces & rammes of Iron aſſayed to beate it downe: The which Lyndana perceiuing, willing rather to ende her daies by vntimely death, then to fall into the hands of ſuch a Tyrraunt, aſſembled

all

all the Citizens, and there exhorted them to be valiaunt, and to consider that Charaxes had first slaine their Lorde and Soueraigne Euandrus, then his two sonnes, Frestynus and Romphanus, and now ment not onely to spoyle her and the whole Countrie, but also to put them and their wiues and children to the edge of the swoorde: so that it were better for them to dye valiauntly in the fielde and so prevent insuing mishap, then to fall into the handes of such a Tyraunt and liue in perpetuall miserie. This perswasion of a woman so animated the Scythians mindes, that they became not onely resolute but desperate, preferring death before captiuitie, and choosing rather to perrish in combat with glorie, then yeeld to Charaxes with slaunder discredite. And hereupon, setting themselues in aray, they valiaumtly issued out of the Citie. Lyndana standing in a Turret vpon the walles to incourage them the more, minding (if her Citizens were outrome) to throwe her selfe headlong from the top of the Tower. The Libians seeing them issue out, singled at their rash folly: and marching forward, thought to haue daunted them at the first dash; but the Scythians manfully rushed vpon their enemies, and in short time made such slaughter of the Libians, that they were faine to retyre: the Scythian Horsemen pursuing so hotly that they brake the ranckes: and Charaxes seeing his Soldiours goe to the worst began to flie, but he was followed by two noble men of Scythia so fast, that he was taken aliue: all the rest of his Soldiours without mercie put to the edge of the swoorde, that there was not so much as one left to carie newes home to Libia. Lyndana seeing this vnlookt for Conquest, reioyced greatly: but especially when she sawe Charaxes taken prisoner: whom after she had in her custodie, she put to teach with sondrie kindes of tortures: and taking out his heart aliue, worketh her endlesse reuenge on it in this maner: and to satisfie her loue to her Brethren, drinketh wine out of their skulles. Thus sir (quoth the Ladie) you heare the straunge maner of my Sacrifice, which I haue and will vse to my perpetuall content.

Saturne. Iupiter. Mars.

Soll.

Venus. Mercurie. Luna.

Iupiter had no sooner endedhis Tragedie, but Mars rising vp from his Seate, began with furious tearmes to taunt Iupiter in this sort.

Mars.

IVpiter, your tragedie with his bitter and wofull euents, hath not driuen such passionate impressions into the mindes of these sacred Gods, but that they can affoorde to laugh at your fond and phantasticall applications: seeing in couceting to conquer, the victorie returneth to an other mans glorie, and shooting at the Fort, you faint in the weakenesse of your owne force: As though most wilfull wise Iupiter, it came through my infectious influence, that Euandrus was slaine by the vilanous treacherie of Charaxes: or that the intestine iarres which rose betweene the two Brothers Prestynus and Romphanus, happened for that I was predominant in the calculation of their natiuitie: but rather that honor (the first steppe to mishap) forced Charaxes to enterprise that dismall mischiefe: and the desire to rule, bred the ciuill dissention betweene the two Princes: for if Euandrus had bene content with the limmits and bounds of his owne Countrie, neither had his mishap nor his childrens miserie so infortunatly chaunced.

Saturne.

Mars, your reasons can neither be of any great waight nor of any stayed wisedome: because they are fierie, proceeding frō such a burning Planet and furious, yeelded by such a choller-

ricke

ricke God. But hearing your naturall inclination so fitly and rightly decyphered by Iupiter, wee are forced to beare with your follie, because we must allowe you to be Mars.

Venus.

Saturne, I think you haue rubd your browes with ẏ sweate of a Bull, because you are so light in the braines: or smelled to the hearbe Anyta, that purgeth melancholie: you are so pleasaunt, you runne descant on Mars his doomes, disallowing thē without any reason, and yet not able to disproue them by any right: but tis your old custome, whē your are weary with plodding in your dumpish moodes, then you fall though crookedly to trauerse in your doating merriments.

Luna.

Venus, no doubt your skill in simples is very good you are so perfect in declaring the secrets. How Saturne hath rubd his browes we knowe not, but that Vulcan is a Bucke of the beast head, euery fond Forrester can discerne. Tis pittie the poore Smiths head is faine to bee a subiect for Mars to worke vpon: but tis no great matter, for Vulcan reuengeth in painting out the discredite of the one, and the dishonestie of the other.

Mercurie.

Tis happie Luna your course is in the night, for els your lickerous lippes would be thought to sauour of the same Lettice: but letting that passe, I pray you tell me how this Tragedie can happen by the sinister constellation of Mars, sith the the cause is alwaies iudged by the effects: what forced both Euandrus and Charaxes to make such mutuall inuasions, the Martial influence of Mars? No, but rather Iupiters ambitious infusion, which wrought in them both a greedy desire of glory.

Iupiter.

Mercurie, you speake of affection, was it not first a Martiall and hatefull minde in Euandrus, who neuer thought him self content, vnlesse in imbrewing his hands in bloudy battels,

and thinking himself then onely infortunate when he was driuen to liue in vnwilling quiet: Was not Charaxes of a mercilesse and furious disposition, to repay Euandrus courtesie with such hellish crueltie: and hauing once obtained Libia, to seeke the life of the louely Ladie Lyndana: but I appeale to the sacred verdict of Soll.

Soll.

Iupiter and ye mightie Gods, my censure is that the euents of this bloudie and balefull Tragedie, came by the intemperat influence of Mars: for Euandrus and Charaxes by the configuratiō of their natiuities (as the successe of their actions make manifest) were mere Martialists, giuen to debates and dissention, to broyles and tumults, feeding vpon gall and choller: And as for Rōphanus, it is euident it was not the desire of glorie and dominion, but a bloudie & enuious minde, which sought with secrete malice to breede his brothers mischiefe: so that I conclude, al these sinister and tragicall Massacres, came by the balefull influence of Mars.

Mars.

Soll, I rest content with your doome, but sith Iupiter stands so much vpon his Pantofles, I will first make an Astronomical description of Iupiters essence, and then proue by a true and Authenticall Tragedie, that most hapless miseries come by the desire of honor and ambition.

Soll.

Not so Iupiter, for you see the night hath cast her duskie Mantle on the Skye, and Thetis standeth waiting where I shall wet my glittering rayes in the Ocean, so that wee must at this [illegible] dissolue this sacred Parliament: but assone as Aurora [illegible]eth mee from my drowsie neast I will meete in this present place, and moderate your controuersies: vntill when I wish you all to remaine as friends without any quarrelous dissentions.

FINIS. Robert Greene.

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